



Bethel Gospel Chapel
Matthew - Chapters 5-7
The Sermon on the Mount

In his book on the Sermon on the Mount, Charles Gage asks, "What is the Sermon on the Mount?" He answers his question simply, "*It is the moral law of the Kingdom of Christ.*"

William Kelly in his commentary on the Book of Matthew goes further when he writes; It is about "*The character of the people who would suit the Kingdom of Heaven, He proclaims that their character was to be formed by His own. — He shows that those who really belong to Him must have a spirit and ways characterized by, and in sympathy with His own.*"

He continues "*Redemption is never touched upon, as it is not the subject of the Sermon on the Mount. If a person, therefore, wanted to be saved, he ought not to look here with the thought of finding an answer. It could not be found in it, because the Lord is bringing out the Kingdom of Heaven and the sort of people that are suitable to that Kingdom. It is clear that He is speaking of His own disciples, and therefore is not showing how one alienated from God could be delivered from that position. He is speaking of saints not sinners.*"

To summarize:

- 1. The Sermon on the Mount is about Moral Law and the character of the people who suit the Kingdom of Christ.
- 2. It asks the Kingdom's citizens to have the character of it's KING.
- 3. The Sermon on the Mount is not about the way to become right with God but how to behave when one is right with God.

This series of studies contains nine lessons. We suggest that you read the entire Sermon on the Mount before you begin Lesson one. This will help to give you an overall picture of its content. It is easy while working on individual lessons to lose the continuity of the whole message.

Bible Study #1 The Sermon on the Mount

Read Matthew 5:1-12

1. Describe the scene and the specific audience that Jesus speaks to in this sermon?
2. Define "blessed" and use it in a sentence of your own.
3. How is poorness of Spirit achieved? What symptoms would you look for to identify it?
4. Mourning in our culture is negative, so what is Jesus referring to? Explain the comfort that He promises?
5. Again meekness has an undesirable connotation in our culture, what does Jesus mean by meekness? Name one person in the Bible who was meek, why is this person called meek?
6. What does it mean to "*hunger and thirst after righteousness*"? What would you look for in a persons life as a clue to its presence? What is meant by the statement "*For they shall be filled*". What are they filled with?
7. Define merciful. How would you recognize a merciful person? Have you ever met one?
8. How is being pure of heart different from being pure in life style? Cite some other scriptures that counsel the value of pureness?
9. What characteristics would be present in a peacekeeper? Why are they called Sons of God? Give an example or two of situations where a peacekeeper would be valuable.
10. Who would persecute someone for doing right? Have you experienced such persecution? Explain.
11. How is it possible to accept insult and injury without being discouraged? Consider 1 Peter 2:19-13 in your answer. Give some examples where the promise seen here is awarded to some Bible characters.

Bible Study #2 The Sermon on the Mount

Read Matthew 5:13-16

1. What are we being told in the first sentence of verse 13? What privilege and what responsibility is being declared?
2. How is saltiness removed from salt? What circumstances or experience would cause a Child of the Kingdom to lose his/her saltiness? Can saltiness be restored?
3. Can the statement "*it is no longer good for nothing*" be applied to a Christian? What does, "*trampled by men*" mean? Could you give an example?
4. Explain what Jesus means by the first sentence of verse 14? How is the word '*light*' being used? Can you suggest a text where the word '*light*' is being used in the same way.
5. Suggest the relationship between the first and second sentences of verse 14?
6. Explain verse 15, why does Jesus state what is quite obvious?
7. Suggest how a Christian's action may obscure his -or- her light. What makes the darkness of an obscured light dangerous?
8. Why is letting our light shine equated with good deeds? What is the similarity between good deeds and good light? Give an example.
9. What attitudes and actions must be present in the doing of good deeds to make them glorifying to God and not glorifying to the doer? Try to think of examples that would illustrate the correct and incorrect outcome.

Bible Study #3 Sermon on the Mount

Read Matthew 5:17-26

1. What actions of the Lord Jesus would make anyone think He had come to abolish the Law and the Prophets? What is being referred to?
2. Explain the phrase: "*I have come to fulfil them?*" How was this done?
3. Is verse 18, referring to the whole Law (the moral, ceremonial and dietary) or something else? What do you think the law means here?
4. Explain what the text means by the phrases "*Great in the Kingdom of Heaven*" - and - "*Least in the Kingdom of Heaven*"? Please, define Kingdom of Heaven.
5. What kind of "*righteousness*" did the Scribes and the Pharisees have? How is Jesus using the word greater and what does He mean by it?
6. Is Jesus redefining the Law here? What is Jesus saying about Himself when He says, "*but I tell you*"?
7. The Lord seems to be suggesting a hierarchy of anger and various results in verse 22, is this true and is there a similar grading today? Explain.
8. What is verse 23 commanding? Explain the process of reconciliation that would effectively restore relationships. What makes reconciliation so difficult sometimes?
9. Suggest the meaning of verses 25 and 26? How should we apply it to ourselves and in the Church?

Bible Study #4 The Sermon on the Mount

Read Matthew 5:27-37

1. Note that verse 27 quotes the sixth commandment exactly, which is not the case in verse 21; what point is the Lord making about adultery in verse 28? Is adultery of the heart the equivalent of adultery in the flesh? Why is this commandment so often ignored?
2. How do our eyes and hands cause us to sin? Surely the Lord is not asking us to pluck them out literally, so what point is He making?
3. Is there a suggestion in verse 30 that the children of the Kingdom can be lost or is He saying that some peoples priorities suggest that they are not really children of the Kingdom at all? Explain your opinion.
4. Compare verses 31 and 32 with Matthew 19:1-11; what does the Lord say in chapter 19 about the practice He refers to in verse 31?
5. Divorce as spoken of in verse 32 and Matthew 19:9, seems to be something that God has a problem with, why is this? Is "*marital unfaithfulness*" an exception? Does it make divorce mandatory?
6. Why does the Lord relate back to Genesis 1:27; and 2:24? What are the implications of those references?
7. Explain the meaning of verses 33-36? Suggest a reason for the command in verse 37.
8. What do verses 33-36 mean for Christians today in regard to courtroom procedure and oath taking situations which we are asked to comply with?

Bible Study #5 The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:38-48

1. Read Exodus 21:22-26; describe the context for the original source of Matthew 5:38?
2. Practically speaking, attitudes today reflect verse 38 more than verse 39, why is that? When Jesus says "*do not resist an evil person*" is He eliminating all avenues of self-defence?
3. Consider the subject of passivity, is it always the right course or is there an occasion when resistance would be appropriate? Can you suggest one Biblical and one present day example?
4. Put verse 42 in your own words. What are some of the difficulties with practising this command?
5. Read Leviticus 19:18; it is the original source for verse 43. Where does the idea "*and hate your enemies*" come from? Refer to Psalm 119:128, Proverbs 8:13, and Amos 5:10, what are we told to hate?
6. Jesus says, "*love your enemies*" how is that possible? What Bible word for love is being used in this passage and what does it mean?
7. If we are to pray for our persecutors, what are we being asked to request?
8. Explain what the Lord is saying in verses 43-47. Whose example are we to follow and why?
9. Define perfect as used in verse 48. Is this verse asking the impossible? Explain.

Bible Study #6 The Sermon on the Mount

Read Matthew 6:1-15

1. Define the phrase found in verse 1, "*Acts of Righteousness*". What does "*before men*" mean and why does such action disqualify us for blessing?
2. Should all giving be anonymous in order to be acknowledged by our Father in heaven? Explain your answer from other Bible teaching on giving.
3. Read 2 Corinthians 8 & 9; list some of the specific instructions Paul gives on giving.
4. The Lord seems to be saying in verse 6 that prayer should be private if we expect God's reward. Does this contradict such verses as Matthew 18:19, or 1 Corinthians 14:16. Does this teach, as some suggest, that public prayer is not scriptural? Explain.
5. What is the second command about prayer? What is He suggesting: sentence prayers, a time limit, or something else? Explain.
6. Explain the Lord's words in verse 8.
7. Analyse the "*Lord's Prayer*" verses 9-13. What are the main categories or divisions in it? Explain Jesus' words in verse 9.
8. Verses 14 & 15 express some perplexing possibilities. Is the Lord Jesus saying that forgiveness for us is contingent on forgiveness by us, -or- does He mean that there is a work component in forgiveness. What is He telling us?

Bible Study #7 The Sermon on the Mount

Read Matthew 6:16-34

1. What is the general pattern current in Israel as suggested by Jesus in verse 16?
2. Consider this section and others about fasting and suggest its purpose for believers.
3. In your own words explain why Jesus is emphasizing secrecy re. giving, praying and fasting for the Children of the Kingdom.
4. What treasures is verse 19 talking about?
5. What treasures is verse 20 talking about? How and who does the storing in heaven?
6. Explain verse 22 in your own words. Are there other verses that can help?
7. Why can't we serve two masters, surely there is some room for compromise. Give an example, personal or otherwise of the result of trying to compromise.
8. Explain what the Lord is saying in verses 25-30.
9. What alternative to worry is suggested in verses 31-34? Is there any significance to the fact that Jesus only mentions food, our bodies, and clothing? Check and be prepared to discuss some other "worry" passages?
10. How do we "seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness"? What practical steps do we take?

Bible Study #8 The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 7:1-14

1. Define the word "*judge*"? Is this verse teaching us that if we don't judge others we will not be judged at all?

2. Verse 2 seems to be saying that our own judgement standard is set by our own judgement standards. Is this correct, if so, how would it work? Compare Luke 6:37&38.

3. Give a practical example that would illustrate what the Lord is saying in verses, 3-5.

4. Is the practice that the Lord refers to common among Christians? Why? What must we consider in order to avoid it?

5. Define "*Sacred*"? Who are the dogs and pigs referred to here? Give a practical illustration?

6. How are asking, seeking and knocking different actions on our part? Compare as well, the results: receiving, finding and opening.

7. What great truth is illustrated in verses 9-11. Suggest one or two truths about prayer than can be learned from this illustration.

8. How does "doing to others what you would have done to you" fulfil the Law and the Prophets? How is the Golden Rule sometimes misused?

9. Verses 13 and 14. are often used in gospel messages, is this an appropriate application? In the context of the Sermon on the Mount what is the Lord Jesus saying to His disciples?

Bible Study #9 Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 7:15-29

1. The exhortation to watch out for false prophets is common in the Bible, why? What are the main points that explain God's opposition against them?

2. What are we to look for in trying to identify false prophets? What "*sheep clothing*" is common today?

3. What is meant by fruit in verse 16? What fruit would we expect a false prophet to evidence today? Check out other passages - 2 Peter 2:1-3, Philippians 3:17-19, etc.

4. What defences do we have against false prophets as individuals and as Churches?

5. Put verse 21 in your own words.

6. How is it possible to prophesy in the Lord's name and do miracles without knowing Him?

7. What two things are necessary according to verse 24 to be a rock builder? What other than listening is included in the act of hearing?

8. Suggest what it is about the Word of God that produces a sure foundation?

9. Is something wrong (verse 26) with both the foolish man's hearing and practice? How can Children of the Kingdom avoid being foolish?

10. What attitudes and actions would be obvious signs that we are both hearing and practising the Word of God?