

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT | Matthew 5-7

1. The Sermon On the Mount is the title given to Jesus' moral and ethical teachings in Matthew 5 - 7. Although many were present, this sermon seems to have been taught primarily to His disciples (Matthew 5:1).
2. The central theme is summarized in Matthew 5:48, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." The word "perfect" means to be adult, full-grown, fully completed growth as contrasted to infancy and childhood, having reached the goal for that which he was created. In other words, a mature disciple. Below are a few of the themes Jesus addresses:
 - Jesus taught His disciples deeper truth and responsibility (5:1-2).
 - Although discipleship is difficult, it brings eternal rewards. (5:3-12).
 - Discipleship requires higher conduct as a representative of God's Kingdom. (5:13-20).
 - Discipleship is an issue of the heart. (5:21-37).
 - Discipleship answers personal offenses with genuine love. (5:38-48).
 - A disciple strives to please God first. (6:1-18).
 - A disciple stores treasure in Heaven. (6:19-24).
 - A disciple trusts in the Father's care for provision. (6:25-34).
 - A disciple first judges his or her own life. (7:1-5).
 - A disciple perseveres in prayer. (7:7-13).
 - A disciple understands the "root fruit principle. (7:15-23).
 - By doing the will of God, a disciple can overcome any storm in life. (7:14-29).

THE BEATITUDES | Matthew 5:1-10

The Beatitudes begin with the expression, "Happy is..." However, "happy" means far more than the contemporary meaning. The idea here is that of a "blissful" state not based upon worldly circumstances but on Divine conditions.

1. **Blessed are the poor (ptochos) in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.**
 - One who has nothing and is completely empty, who realizes that they can never achieve salvation on their own and put their complete faith and trust in Jesus Christ.
 - In Luke 15:21 we see how the prodigal son became poor in spirit.
 - In Luke 18:10-14 the beggar was justified before God because of his humility.
2. **Blessed are they who mourn (pentheo), for they will be comforted.**
 - To grieve, to strike/beat the chest, an outward sign of an inward grief.
 - Do we mourn over our sin against a Holy God? Do we grieve because of the sin of this world against God's Law? Do we sorrow over the sins of others?
 - 2 Corinthians 7:10-11 states that true repentance from sorrow changes the individual.
 - In Nehemiah 1 we see the sorrow of Nehemiah over the result of the sins of Israel.

- In the "prodigal son" we see the father comforting him when he returned home and had genuine grief over his actions.
- 3. Blessed are the meek (prautes), for they will inherit the earth.**

 - The quality in which we accept God's dealing with us as good and do not resist or fight. It demonstrates gentleness not in weakness but in power.
 - The word does not refer to a wild, unruly animal; it refers to a strong and powerful horse or an ox that was trained and disciplined. This is a person who is controlled by God in thought, word, will, emotion, and action.
 - The meek are patient. Moses was the meekest man above all men (Numbers 12:3); it is the meek (humble) whom God guides in His way.
 - 4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for Righteousness (dikaiosune), for they will be filled.**

 - Righteousness are those things that are upright, virtuous, noble, morally right, and ethical, as opposed to lawlessness.
 - Righteousness is a life style that is in conformity to the will of God.
 - 5. Blessed are the merciful (eleemon), for they shall be shown mercy.**

 - Compassionate, involving thought and action.
 - The merciful do not only express outward acts of mercy, but have this as an inward attribute because of the life of God within them.
 - Jesus had compassion on the crowds and healed them and fed them - Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; 20:34.
 - 6. Blessed are the pure (katharos) in heart, for they will see God.**

 - Something cleansed by shaking it as in a sieve. It is free from impurities and other contaminates.
 - Psalm 24:3-4
 - Mark 7:20-23 states that every unclean thing comes from the heart, the origin of our emotions and will. However, Psalm 119:9 states "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word."
 - 7. Blessed are the peacemakers (eirenopoios), for they will be called sons of God.**

 - One who makes peace in others having first received peace with God in his own heart. They are peace makers, not peace keepers.
 - Romans 5:1-2; Ephesians 2:14-18
 - 8. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of God.**

 - The blessing is for those who are being persecuted for doing right, not for wrong or evil acts. (1 Peter 2:20)
 - The stoning of Stephen in Acts 7:54-60