

Guidelines for Godly Living - Part 2

The Sermon on the Mount - Overview



- Should a believer behave better than a non-believer? Should the citizens of Christ's kingdom live on a higher standard than the kingdoms of this world's?

The **MANIFESTO** of King Jesus

The **Sermon on the Mount** is a major section of the gospel of Matthew, covering chapters 5-7. Large crowds were following Jesus and he stopped at a hillside near Capernaum to teach them **how the people of his Kingdom should live**. The Sermon on the Mount is **the most complete overview or summary of the teachings of Jesus** contained in the New Testament. Some have called it the **Magna Carta of Christ's Kingdom**.

Bible scholar, John Stott, stated that the Sermon on the Mount "...is the nearest thing to a **manifesto** that he ever uttered, for it is his own description of what he wanted his followers to be and to do." (*Christian Counter-Culture*, 15).

Internal **CHARACTER**, Not External Conduct

The focus of the Sermon on the Mount is about everyday life and its problems. It is about character. It is about the heart condition of the citizens of Christ's Kingdom.

Central Lesson:

The followers of Christ should live like citizens of Christ's Kingdom.

WHAT Are the Teachings of Jesus?

Jesus taught about a number of various everyday life issues. He often contrasted how the world lived with how the citizens of his Kingdom should live.

Matthew Chapter 6 (Part 2)

10. **Jesus Teaches about **PRIDE****—(6:1-4). We must avoid doing good to be seen (a photo op). God knows the true motives of our hearts. Photo op good deeds is worthless in God's eyes. *"4 Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you."*
11. **Jesus Teaches about **PRAYER****—(6:5-13). Again, don't turn prayer into a photo op. Prayer should be genuine communication with God. Jesus gave a pattern for prayer in vs. 9-13 in what is commonly called "The Lord's Prayer." *"6 But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you."*
12. **Jesus Teaches about Forgiving Others**—(6:14-15). We must forgive others who have wronged us if we expect God to forgive us. *"14 If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. 15 But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."*
13. **Jesus Teaches about Fasting**—(6:16-18). Again, fasting should not be a photo op. True fasting should be private and from a motive to genuinely seek God. *"16 And when you fast, don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get."*

14. **Jesus Teaches about **MONEY****—(6:19-24). We must guard against money being the master of our lives. We need to ask ourself: *Do I have money, or does money have me? "24 No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money."*
15. **Jesus Teaches about **WORRY****—(6:25-34). We must combat worry with trust in God. We must believe that we are valuable to God, that He fully knows our situations, and that He will provide and care for us. *"31 So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?...' 33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."*

Matthew Chapter 7

16. **Jesus Teaches about Being **JUDGMENTAL****—(7:1-6). We must guard against negativity, criticism, and being judgmental. *"1 Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. 2 ...The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged."*
17. **Jesus Teaches about Persistency—Asking, Seeking, Knocking**—(7:7-11). Persistency is a key principle to answered prayer. The words *ask, seek, and knock* in the original Greek text are in a tense that means "continually" or "persistently." *"7 Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you."*
18. **Jesus Teaches about Relationships—The Golden Rule**—(7:12). Treating others the same way you want to be treated is the simple secret to building relationships—marriage, friendships, etc. *"12 Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you...."*
19. **Jesus Teaches about the Road to **HEAVEN****—(7:13-14). Jesus illustrates the road to heaven as a road which is narrow and not popular or crowded. The highway to hell is broad and crowded.
20. **Jesus Teaches about Detecting **DECEIVERS****—(7:15-20). Jesus warned about deceptive people who want to take advantage of us and harm us. He tells us how to recognize them. *"15 Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. 16 You can identify them by their fruit...."*
21. **Jesus Teaches about Self-Righteousness Versus A **SAVING Relationship****—(7:21-23). Some people have deceived themselves in thinking that they are a child of God and are going to heaven. But on judgment day they will sadly discover that they are not saved and not going to heaven. The problem—they were trusting in their good works and religious involvement rather than trusting in Jesus Christ and his sacrificial death alone (cf. Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:21-25; 4:5; Titus 3:5-7).
22. **Jesus Teaches about Building a Spiritual Foundation for Life**—(7:24-27). Life has its storms. Life needs to be built on a solid foundation. That foundation is the teachings of Jesus and God's Word. *"24 Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock."*

Central Lesson:

The followers of Christ should live like citizens of Christ's Kingdom.

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior. ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ▶ Attend a small group. ▶ Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.