

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Matthew Chapters 5-7

The Sermon of the Mount is ONE, unified teaching. Dallas Willard says “The aim of the sermon is to help people come to hopeful and realistic terms with their lives here on earth by clarifying, in concrete terms, the nature of the kingdom into which they are now invited by Jesus call”.

Intro & Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) – see prior handout

Salt & Light (Matthew 5:13-16)

It is ordinary people like us - living out the Beatitudes with God’s help – which are to be the Salt & Light of the world! We should be doing good deeds in the name of God (Jesus) and for His glory! (verse 16; I Cor 10:31; Col 3:17).

Salt = flavoring and preserving

Light = illuminates the darkness caused by Satan and the world. Jesus is the “light of the world” and we are to be His reflectors (refer to John 8:12, 9:5, 12:46; I John 1:5-7).

Fulfillment of the Law (Matthew 5:17-20)

Jesus fulfilled the law in that He gave it its full meaning. Jesus lived a sinless life, and perfectly kept both the letter and spirit of the moral Old Testament law. His righteousness is imputed to us when we believe in and receive the gift of salvation that He offers (Eph 2:14-16; 2 Cor 5:21; John 1:12-13).

Jesus emphasizes the Law’s deep, underlying principles and total commitment to it rather than mere external acknowledgement and obedience. He emphasizes the “spirit” of the law, not merely the “letter” of the law.

Jesus refutes the hypocritical, pharisaical legalism – and at the same time validates the value of the Old Testament law as rightly intended. The heart of the moral Old Testament Law consists of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) and to Love God and Love People (Deut 6:4-6; Lev 19:9-19).

The Pharisees and scribes missed the boat by focusing on external actions; God wants our internal hearts to be right, and out of good hearts to flow love and good deeds (see Matthew 12:3-37; 23:1-28).

Living the Kingdom Life In Every Day Situations (Matthew 5:21-48)

Jesus contrasts the externalistic interpretation of the rabbis on one hand - versus the correct interpretation based on goodness flowing from our hearts on the other. He works through six specific situations in which He contrasts goodness flowing from our hearts versus legalistic actions.

OLD INTERPETATION OF LAW VS. NEW KINGDOM LIVING STANDARDS

Situation	Old “Law”	New Kingdom Living
1. Matthew 5:21-26 Irritation with another person	No murder	Intense desire to be of help. No anger or contempt; seek reconciliation.
2. Matthew 5:27 – 30 Sexual attraction	No intercourse	No cultivation of lust. Be holy in thought and deed (refer to James 1:13-15 for Lust → Action → “Death” progression).
3. Matthew 5:31-32 Unhappiness with marriage	Give “pink slip”; very easy divorce	Divorce should be rare.
4. Matthew 5:33 – 37 Wanting someone to believe something	Keep vow/oath made to convince	Only say how things are or are not. No verbal manipulation (refer to Eccl 5:4-9).

<p>5. Matthew 5:38 – 42 Being personally injured</p>	<p>Inflict exactly the same injury on offender (get revenge)</p>	<p>Don't harm, but help the one who has damaged you.</p>
<p>6. Matthew 5: 43-48 Having an enemy</p>	<p>Hate your enemy</p>	<p>Love and bless your enemy, as the heavenly Father does (refer to Jesus example in Luke 23:32-34).</p>