

This book is a study on Jesus’s sermon on the mount. Each chapter will focus on a subject and will be commented by authors throughout history. You will learn the thoughts of famous authors as well as the teachings of Jesus. How familiar are you with the sermon on the mount? Have you ever studied the full content of this teaching?

The Sermon on the Mount is a collection of sayings and teachings spoken by Jesus of Nazareth found in the Gospel of Matthew (chapters 5, 6, and 7). It summarizes his discoveries and moral teachings. It is the first of five discourses in the Gospel and has been one of the most widely quoted sections of the Gospels.

Discourse – written or spoken communication or debate.

Background and setting

The Sermon on the Mount is placed relatively early in Matthew’s portrayal of Jesus’s ministry—following, in chapter 3, his baptism by John and, in chapter 4, his sojourn and temptation in the desert, his call of four disciples, and his early preaching in Galilee.

The five discourses in the Gospel of Matthew are:

- 1) the Sermon on the Mount
- 2) the discourse on discipleship
- 3) the discourse of parables
- 4) the discourse on the community of faith
- 5) the discourse on future events

Traditionally, the **Mount of Beatitudes** has been commemorated by Christians as the physical site at which the sermon took place. Other locations, such as **Mount Arbel** and the **Horns of Hattin**, have also been suggested as possibilities.

This sermon is one of the most widely quoted sections of the canonical gospels, including some of the best-known sayings attributed to Jesus, such as the Beatitudes and the commonly recited version of the Lord’s Prayer. It also contains what many consider to be the central tenets of Christian discipleship.

Matt. 5:1-2 – “Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them,..” Who is Jesus directing his teaching to in the sermon on the mount?

What are some reasons Jesus gave the sermon on the mount? How are these teachings received today?

Kingdom Character - Master Teacher

“**The Beatitudes** are a declaration that a certain way of being leads to human flourishing. Jesus assures us that following him, that living as citizens of God’s kingdom, will not be in vain; his disciples are on the path that leads to life.”

Matt. 5:3-12 – “**Blessed are the poor in spirit (humble), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**” What does this mean?

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” Why are those that mourn blessed?

Blessed are the meek (yielded), for they will inherit the earth.” What does it mean to be meek?

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” What is the thirst for righteousness?

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” How can you be merciful?

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” What does it mean to be pure of heart?

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.” Are you a peacemaker?

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Have you ever felt persecution because of your Christian spiritual beliefs? How did you handle it?

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Have you ever thought about the persecution of the Christian brothers and sisters that lived before you?

E. Stanley Jones – “He (Jesus) was not presenting a new set of laws, but demanding a new loyalty to his person. The loyalty to his person was to be expressed in carrying out the things he embodied. He was the embodiment of the Sermon on the Mount, and to be loyal to him meant to be loyal to his way of life...”. Have you ever thought of your loyalty to Jesus as being your actions?

Henri J. M. Nouwen – “The Blessed One of God is a threat to the established order and a source of constant irritation to those who consider themselves the rulers of this world. Without accusing anyone he is considered an accuser, without condemning anyone he makes people feel guilty and ashamed, without his judging anyone those who see him feel judged. In their eyes, he cannot be tolerated and needs to be destroyed because letting him be seems like a confession of guilt. When we want to become like Jesus, we cannot expect always to be liked and admired. We have to be prepared to be rejected.”

Can you take joy in knowing that you may be rejected in this world, just as Jesus was, because you look to him and his teachings as your compass for life?