

Assignments on Matthew 5

Please read Matthew 5 (note parallels in other accounts) and answer these questions.

1. Where did Jesus preach this sermon? Who was present – 5:1,2?
2. Define “beatitude.” Why is this a good term for verses 1-12?
3. Define “poor in spirit” – 5:3. List other passages about it.

4. **Special Assignment:** List some characteristics of people who are poor in spirit. For each one, give at least one Scripture and then explain the application to our lives.

5. What blessing did Jesus pronounce on the poor in spirit? Explain this blessing, and explain how being poor in spirit leads to it.

6. **Special Assignment:** Contrast Jesus’ teaching here to what people typically believe.

7. Jesus pronounced the second blessing on whom – 5:4? Define “mourn.” (Think: Does Jesus refer to mourning for physical reasons or for spiritual reasons? Explain.)

8. **Application:** List and explain passages that connect mourning to repentance and/or sorrow for sin and its consequences. In what senses should we grieve about sin?

9. What blessing did Jesus pronounce on those who mourn? Explain how mourning may lead to being comforted.

10. **Special Assignment:** How does this contrast to what people usually believe?

11. Jesus pronounced the third blessing (beatitude) on whom – 5:5? Define “meek.”

12. List and explain several verses that help us understand what meekness means.

13. **Application:** List some ways meekness shows itself in people’s lives. For each one, give at least one passage of Scripture and then explain the application to our lives.

14. What blessing did Jesus pronounce on those who are meek? Study other passages that use the phrase “inherit the earth” (or similar phrases, especially in the Old Testament). Explain the meaning and how it relates to meekness.

15. **Special Assignment:** How does this contrast to what people usually believe?

16. Jesus pronounced the fourth blessing (beatitude) on whom – 5:6? Describe what it means to “hunger and thirst.”

17. Define “righteousness.” List and explain several verses that help us understand what righteousness means.

18. **Application:** List some ways hunger and thirst for righteousness shows itself in people’s lives. For each one, give other Scripture and then explain the application to our lives.

19. What blessing did Jesus pronounce on those who hunger and thirst for righteousness? List several specific blessings that one who truly hungers and thirsts for righteousness will receive. Explain how hungering and thirsting for righteousness can lead to these blessings.

20. **Special Assignment:** How does this contrast to what people usually believe?

21. Jesus pronounced the fifth blessing (beatitude) on whom – 5:7? Define “mercy.”

22. List several verses that help us understand mercy. (Think: Does mercy mean we overlook people’s sins or give whatever people ask or do whatever they ask us to do?)

23. **Application:** Explain how mercy should affect our lives in each area below. For each one, try to find at least one passage of Scripture and then explain the application to our lives.

- a) Helping people with physical needs -
- b) Forgiving others as God forgives us -
- c) Teaching the gospel to the lost -

24. What blessing did Jesus pronounce on the merciful? Explain how showing mercy to others can lead to this blessing.

25. **Special Assignment:** How does this contrast to what people usually believe?

26. Jesus pronounced the sixth blessing (beatitude) on whom – 5:8? Define “pure.” (Think: To what does the “heart” refer in such verses as this?)

27. List and explain verses that help us understand what it means to be pure in heart.

28. **Application:** List some lessons purity of heart will teach us. For each one, try to find at least one passage of Scripture and then explain the application to our lives.

29. What blessing did Jesus pronounce on the pure in heart? Explain how being pure in heart can lead to this blessing.

30. **Special Assignment:** How does this contrast to what people usually believe?

31. Jesus pronounced the seventh blessing on whom – 5:9? Define “peace.”

32. List and explain several verses that help us understand the meaning of peace.

33. **Application:** List relationships in which we should seek peace. For each one, find at least one passage and explain how we can be peacemakers in that relationship. (Think: What limits does the Bible place on peace? Should we seek peace at any price without limit?)

34. What blessing did Jesus pronounce on the peacemakers? Explain how being peacemakers can lead to this blessing.

35. **Special Assignment:** How does this teaching contrast to what people usually believe?

36. Jesus pronounced the eighth blessing (beatitude) on whom – 5:10-12? Define “persecute” and “revile.”

37. List and explain several verses that describe persecution. What is the difference between persecution that is blessed and punishment for evil?

38. **Application:** List some ways people try to pressure good people to do wrong. Describe some Bible teachings about how we should deal with persecution. Give passages.

39. What blessing did Jesus pronounce on those who are persecuted? (Think: Many people deny that heaven will be the eternal reward of Christians. What does this passage teach?)

40. **Special Assignment:** How does this contrast to what people usually believe?

41. State in your own words the theme of 5:13-16. List three examples Jesus uses to illustrate His point. Explain how each example relates to the theme.

42. **Application:** What should we learn from a city set on a hill cannot be hidden?

43. What did Jesus mean by salt losing its saltiness or a light being hid under a bushel?

44. **Special Assignment:** Explain what application Jesus' teaching would have in our relationships with various specific groups of people.

45. **Application:** Explain ways disciples can fail to be an influence for good. Give examples. Discuss problems caused when people who profess to serve God don't live a good life.

46. What does 5:16 say leads people to glorify God? Explain how our influence, good or bad, reflects on the Father. Give Scriptures.

47. What subject did Jesus introduce in verses 17,18? What did He say about the law?

48. **Case Study:** Many people use this passage to argue that Jesus did not remove the law, so it must still be in effect. Give other passages about our relationship to the Old Law.

49. What is meant by a "jot" and a "tittle"? Give examples of what would still be in effect, if every jot and tittle still remains today.

50. What did Jesus actually say in 5:18 about when the law would "pass away"? What did He say He came to do (5:17)? If He did what He came to do, what would happen to the law? (Think: Compare 5:18 to Luke 16:17. Explain the expression "till heaven and earth pass away.")

51. List and explain passages showing whether or not Jesus fulfilled the law. If Jesus fulfilled the law, then what has happened to it? (Think: In what sense did He not “destroy” it?)

52. Explain why Jesus encouraged people to teach and do the commandments – 5:19. (Hint: Was the law still in effect when He spoke here? When was it removed?)

53. **Special Assignment:** How should our righteousness compare to that of scribes and Pharisees – 5:20? Explain ways in which the righteousness of these people was lacking.

54. **Special Thought questions:** In subsequent verses, Jesus repeatedly contrasts His teaching to past teachings. As we study, consider the following general questions: (1) To what prior teachings does Jesus refer: The Old Testament law, human traditions about the law, both, or neither? (2) How literal and specific did Jesus intend these teachings to be?

55. What prior teaching does Jesus discuss beginning in 5:21? Try to find passages where such was taught.

56. What did Jesus teach about anger (5:22)? Why discuss anger in the context of murder?

57. **Application:** Does a person sin every time he is angry with his brother? Explain and give examples of anger that is sinful as compared to anger that may not be sinful.

58. List and explain other passages that show why anger is dangerous.

59. Define the terms “raca” and “fool.” What consequences would follow from using these expressions? (Think: Do people in other passages call people a “fool” without sinning?)

60. **Application:** Did Jesus intend here to remove specific code words from our vocabulary, or is there a deeper meaning to His teaching? Explain and prove your answer.

61. Define “reconcile” – 5:24. What must we do if a brother has something against us?

62. How did Jesus emphasize the importance of this duty – 5:23?

63. What are the duties of one who believes a brother has sinned against him? List other passages that discuss our duty when we have something against one another.

64. **Case Study:** Alienated brethren often think, “It’s his fault. He should come to me.” Or “There is nothing that can be done about it.” Summarize the Bible teaching about reconciliation between disciples. Are we justified in allowing alienation to continue?

65. What did Jesus say we should do when an adversary may take us to the judge – 5:25,26? What consequences may follow if we don’t take this action? (Think: What does this teaching assume about our guilt? Should we admit guilt when we are innocent?)

66. **Application:** Rather than admit their errors and seek to correct them with those who have been harmed, what do many people try to do?

67. What prior teaching does Jesus discuss beginning in 5:27? Try to list passages where such was taught.

68. What teaching did Jesus give in contrast – 5:28? Define “lust” and “adultery.”

69. List and explain other passages that teach ideas related to what Jesus taught here. Why are the thoughts in a person’s heart important? How might thoughts relate to adultery?

70. **Application:** Explain in your own words the principle Jesus taught and give applications that illustrate the point.

71. Summarize what Jesus taught in 5:29,30. How does this relate to adultery?

72. **Special Assignment:** Did Jesus mean for us to literally practice what He specifically states in verses 29,30? Prove your answer by Scripture.

73. **Application:** Explain the point of 5:29,30 and give practical applications.

74. What previous teaching does Jesus discuss beginning in 5:31? Where was this taught, and what did the teaching say?

75. In contrast to the older teaching, what did Jesus teach – 5:32? Define “divorce,” “fornication,” and “adultery.”

76. List and summarize other passages that relate to this topic. (Think: Is Jesus teaching differently from the Old Law, or is He correcting misunderstandings of the law? Proof?)

77. In what sense would a man, if he divorced his wife without Scriptural grounds, “cause her to commit adultery?” What is the condition of the man who marries the woman?

78. **Application:** Is Jesus saying divorce itself is wrong (if not for fornication), or only that the remarriage is wrong? I.e., may a man divorce, as long as he does not remarry? Proof?

79. What is the permissible reason for divorce? (Think: May a person remarry if he was put away because he committed fornication? Explain.)

80. **Application:** What must a person do if he/she is in an adulterous marriage because of a divorce for a cause other than fornication? Prove your answer.

81. What previous teaching does Jesus discuss beginning in 5:33? Was this concept directly taught in the Old Testament? List passages that are similar in meaning.

82. Define “swear” and “oath.”

83. Special Assignment: Is swearing the same as cursing or profanity? Explain.

84. Note Matthew 23:16-22. What traditions had the Jews built up about swearing?

85. List and explain other passages about swearing or oaths.

86. In contrast to the older teaching, what did Jesus teach – 5:34-37?

87. Application: Can you find New Testament passages in which anyone swore or took an oath or the equivalent with God’s approval? Explain the lessons Jesus meant for us to learn. List and discuss some applications.

88. What previous teaching did Jesus discuss in 5:38? List Old Testament passages regarding it. What was the meaning of those passages?

89. What did Jesus teach in contrast to the former teaching – 5:39-41? List and explain other passages that help us understand Jesus’ teaching.

90. Special Assignment: How literally did Jesus intend this teaching to be taken? What did He do when He was slapped or attacked? What did other disciples do when attacked? Explain what applications we should make of 5:39.

91. What further examples did Jesus give in 5:40,41? Again, how literally did Jesus intend this teaching to be applied? What applications should we make?

92. How is the principle stated in 5:42? Again, how literally should this be taken? What is the proper application? Are there limits on the teaching?

93. What previous teaching did Jesus discuss in 5:43? Were these teachings included in the Old Testament? List and explain relevant Old Testament passages.

94. How did Jesus say we should treat those who mistreat us – 5:44?

95. **Application:** List and explain other related New Testament passages. Explain the lessons we should learn for our own lives. How should we apply these principles?

96. How does the conduct of God illustrate the principle Jesus is teaching – 5:45?

97. How does Jesus' teaching compare to what other people practice – 5:46,47?

98. **Special Assignment:** Consider the significance of Jesus' question: "What do you more than others?" Explain how this statement challenges our lives as Christians.

99. What goal did Jesus set for us in 5:48? Can we be "perfect" in every sense that God is?

100. **Application:** Explain the lessons Jesus meant for us to learn from 5:48.