

BA Study Guide: Matthew 5–8

Overview

Matthew 5–8 isn't about religious vibes or good advice. It's Jesus' Kingdom Manifesto—the most savage sermon ever preached. No motivational fluff. Just a full-scale confrontation of fake faith, shallow comfort, and surface-level obedience.

If Matthew 1–4 showed who Jesus is, Matthew 5–8 reveals what He expects from anyone who dares to follow Him.

Chapter Breakdown

Matthew 5 – Righteousness Redefined

Known as the Beatitudes, but don't get it twisted. This isn't a list of personality traits. It's a war cry for inner transformation.

Jesus says:

“Blessed are the meek...” (Not weak—*controlled strength*)

“Blessed are the pure in heart...” (No secret sin)

“Blessed are the persecuted...” (Yes, for real)

Then He takes the Law and raises the bar:

Anger = murder

Lust = adultery

Retaliation = replaced with mercy

Love your enemies = non-negotiable

Key Truth: Jesus isn't interested in behavior modification. He's after total heart transformation.

Reflection: Are you trying to “look Christian,” or are you being conformed into the image of Christ—internally?

Matthew 6 – Secret Devotion Over Public Performance

Jesus calls out the spiritual showmen:

Giving to be seen? Wrong.

Praying for attention? Useless.

Fasting for likes? You've missed the point.

Then He teaches us how to pray—not to impress, but to align:

“Your kingdom come, Your will be done...”

And He ends with a direct attack on one of our modern gods: anxiety.

“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (v. 33)

Key Truth: Kingdom men seek God in secret—and trust Him in storms.

Challenge: What part of your walk has become more about performance than presence?

Matthew 7 – Judgment, Fruit, and the Narrow Way

Jesus isn't saying “don't judge.” He's saying don't judge like a hypocrite.

The gate to life is narrow—few find it.

False teachers look good—but their fruit always reveals their root.

And Jesus gives this terrifying warning:

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven...”

Saying the right words doesn't mean you're saved. Obedience proves identity.

Key Truth: The Christian life isn't about how loud you say “Lord”—it's about how deeply you obey Him when no one's watching.

Check Yourself: What does the fruit of your life say about the condition of your heart?

Matthew 8 – Jesus Is in Full Command

Jesus heals a leper, calms a storm, casts out demons, and shows His authority over nature, sickness, and the spiritual realm.

But He also makes it clear: following Him isn't convenient.

“Foxes have holes, birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” (v. 20)

Discipleship isn't about comfort—it's about *commitment*.

Key Truth: The same Jesus who calms storms will also lead you straight into one to strengthen your faith.

Action: Where are you choosing comfort over calling?

God's Character Revealed

Holy (He raises the bar, not lowers it)

Present (He's near in secret devotion)

Just (He exposes fake faith)

Powerful (He commands creation, demons, and disease)

What This Confronts in Me

My need for applause in my spiritual life

My tendency to justify sin if it's "not hurting anyone"

My fear of losing control when storms hit

My shallow obedience dressed up as devotion

Memory Verse

Matthew 6:33

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

This isn't a prosperity formula. It's a *priority command*. Kingdom first. Always.

Today's Battle Plan

Identify one area of your life that's more performance than presence.

Confess one sin you've justified and surrender it.

Memorize Matthew 6:33. Pray it daily this week.

Ask another man: *"What's God calling you to do that you're scared to obey?"* Then walk with him through it.

Evangelism Tip

Let someone know what obedience cost you. People are drawn to *real stories*, not sanitized testimonies. Show them that Jesus is worth the cost.

Disciple-Making Tip

Start every conversation this week with this question:

"What did you read in the Word today?"

Normalize spiritual hunger. Challenge spiritual laziness.

Final Charge

Jesus didn't preach a message to inspire fans.

He laid out the blueprint for kingdom men—cross-carriers, storm-walkers, and heart-surrenderers.

You don't get to follow Jesus and keep your comfort.

You follow Him—and you find your purpose

