

DOING THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

A practical guide to putting Jesus' words into practice • Matthew 5–7

MATTHEW 5 — THE CHARACTER AND CALLING OF THE KINGDOM

PASSAGE	JESUS' TEACHING	HOW WE DO IT TODAY
5:3–12	The Beatitudes: Blessed are the poor in spirit, mourners, meek, merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, and the persecuted.	Admit your need for God; grieve over injustice; choose gentleness; show mercy; pursue integrity; make peace; and do what is right even when it costs you. Be humble.
5:13–16	Be salt and light.	Let your life be visible — live your faith openly and publicly, not in hiding. Pick one person this week you can serve, love, encourage and show Jesus to. Be salt and light to them.
5:17–20	Fulfill God's intent, not merely the letter of the law.	Ask what God's commands are meant to produce in you instead of looking for the minimum you can get away with.
5:21–26	Reconcile with others.	Take responsibility for your part in a conflict and make the first move toward reconciliation when possible. Is there someone you are holding a grudge toward? Reach out to reconcile.
5:27–30	Reject lust and objectification.	Treat people as persons, not objects; remove access to habits, content, or situations that feed destructive desires and make you less human. What do you need to cut out?
5:31–32	Honor faithfulness in marriage.	Practice honesty, commitment, respect, love and care; don't treat people as disposable.
5:33–37	Tell the truth without manipulation.	Keep your promises, speak honestly, and become someone whose yes and no can be trusted. Are you keeping your word this week, with everything?
5:38–42	Refuse retaliation.	Resist getting even. Respond without letting revenge control you, while keeping appropriate boundaries and protecting yourself and people from harm. Revenge isn't right.
5:43–48	Love your enemies.	Pray for someone you dislike or who you consider an enemy, refuse to dehumanize them, and seek their good without excusing wrongdoing. Maybe a politician, leader, family...?

MATTHEW 6 — THE PRACTICES AND PRIORITIES OF THE KINGDOM

PASSAGE	JESUS' TEACHING	HOW WE DO IT TODAY
6:1–4	Give without seeking applause.	Help someone anonymously or give generously without announcing it for recognition. Practice invisible generosity. What can you do this week?
6:5–8	Pray sincerely, not as a performance.	Spend time praying simply and in private without trying to impress God, anyone else, or find perfect words. It's not necessary.
6:9–13	Pray the Lord's Prayer.	Honor God's name, seek God's kingdom, ask for what you need, forgive others, and ask for help resisting evil.

PASSAGE	JESUS' TEACHING	HOW WE DO IT TODAY
6:14–15	Forgive others.	Release your desire to punish someone through resentment, while maintaining boundaries and pursuing justice when needed.
6:16–18	Fast without performing spirituality.	Set aside food or another ordinary comfort, where appropriate, to make room for prayer without advertising it. It doesn't have to just be prayer, but going without to refocus on God.
6:19–21	Store up treasures in heaven.	Invest time, money, and energy in people, compassion, generosity, and work that reflects God's kingdom rather than status and possessions. Do Kingdom work that matters.
6:22–23	Practice undivided devotion.	Notice what captures your attention and desires; cultivate habits that help you see others generously rather than enviously. Guard what you give your attention to, because what you look at shapes who you become.
6:24	Serve God rather than wealth.	Make financial decisions according to your deepest values, not merely profit, status, or fear of losing money. Tithing isn't a rule, nor is it in the N.T. Give joyfully to the Lord.
6:25–34	Refuse to be ruled by worry.	Take the next responsible step, pray about your needs, receive today's gifts, and resist trying to control every possible tomorrow. You can't. God will help you day to day. Trust.

MATTHEW 7 — THE PRACTICES AND PRIORITIES OF THE KINGDOM

PASSAGE	JESUS' TEACHING	HOW WE DO IT TODAY
7:1–5	Don't judge hypocritically.	Before criticizing someone else's failure, examine your own life and address your own faults honestly. We can help someone else after we've searched ourselves first.
7:6	Exercise discernment.	Recognize that not every person or situation is ready for every conversation; treat what is sacred with wisdom rather than contempt.
7:7–11	Ask, seek, and knock.	Keep bringing your needs to God, persist in prayer, and continue seeking God's wisdom instead of giving up. This is a progression. Asking, then seeking, then knocking.
7:12	Treat others as you want to be treated.	Show others the fairness, patience, respect, and kindness you hope to receive.
7:13–14	Enter through the narrow gate.	Choose the difficult but faithful path when the easier path would require dishonesty, selfishness, or compromise. Jesus uses hyperbole to remind us we need His grace.
7:15–20	Recognize false prophets by their fruit.	Evaluate spiritual leaders by their character and the outcomes of their lives, not merely their charisma, popularity, or claims. Fruit=Christian Character. The Fruit of the Spirit.
7:21–23	Do the Father's will.	Don't substitute religious activity, impressive ministry, or saying the right things for actually living God's way. Spiritual activity flows from a real relationship with Jesus, not a performance one. It's truly <i>knowing</i> Him!
7:24–27	Build your life on Jesus' words.	Pick one thing Jesus taught and actually do it — hearing without doing is building on sand.

The goal is not only to hear Jesus' words, but to do them, to put them into practice.