**MATTHEW, 5-7 (SERMON ON THE MOUNT)**

*The Sermon on the Mount is a collection of sayings and teachings of Jesus Christ, which emphasizes his moral teaching. The Sermon is the longest continuous discourse of Jesus found in the New Testament. It includes some of the best known teachings of Jesus, such as the Beatitutes and the so-called Lord’s Prayer. The Sermon on the Mount is generally considered by theologians to contain the central principles of the Christian faith. What are the principles Jesus taught in the Sermon? What did he warn his followers about? What kind of behavior did Jesus preach his disciples to demonstrate in their own lives? What does he have to say about existing Jewish law?*

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2and he began to teach them.

**The Beatitudes**

He said:

3“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
    for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
4Blessed are those who mourn,  
    for they will be comforted.  
5Blessed are the meek,  
    for they will inherit the earth.  
6Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
    for they will be filled.  
7Blessed are the merciful,  
    for they will be shown mercy.  
8Blessed are the pure in heart,  
    for they will see God.  
9Blessed are the peacemakers,  
    for they will be called children of God.  
10Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
    for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Eye for Eye**

38“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’[[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5-7&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23273h)] 39But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. 40And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. 41If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. 42Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

**Love for Enemies**

43“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor[[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5-7&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-23278i" \o "See footnote i)] and hate your enemy.’ 44But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

**Giving to the Needy**

6 “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

2“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 3But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

**Prayer**

5“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 6But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

9“This, then, is how you should pray:

“‘Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
10your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
    on earth as it is in heaven.  
11Give us today our daily bread.  
12And forgive us our debts,  
    as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
13And lead us not into temptation,[[j](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5-7&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23296j)]  
    but deliver us from the evil one.[[k](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5-7&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23296k)]’

14For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

**True and False Prophets**

15“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

**True and False Disciples**

21“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ 23Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

28When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.