

The Sermon on the Mount

Learning to Follow Jesus

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The Five “Discourses” in the Gospel of St. Matthew

1. The Sermon on the Mount (5-7)
2. The Discourse on Discipleship (10)
3. The Discourse of Parables (13)
4. The Discourse on the Community of Faith (18)
5. The Discourse on Future Events (24-25)

The Structure of the Sermon on the Mount

Concluding statement: “Now when Jesus had finished saying these words, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as their scribes.” (7:28-29 NRSVue)

Opening statement: “When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying...” (5:1-2)

Jesus as the new Moses

“For those properly informed of and alive to Jewish tradition, the two verses constitute a Mosaic preface: the mountain is typologically analogous to Sinai, and when Jesus sits thereon, his posture evokes the image of the lawgiver.”

– Dale Allison, *The New Moses*

The core of the Sermon: Matthew 5:17 - 7:12

Matt. 5:17: “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.”

Matt. 7:12: “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

The core of the core: The Lord's Prayer (6:9-13)

The triadic structure of the Sermon

“By three things the world is sustained: by the law, by the Temple service, and by deeds of loving kindness.”

– Simon the Just

MATTHEW 4:23-7:29 OVERVIEW

Figure 4: The Structure of the Sermon on the Mount

Introduction: Setting of the Sermon	4:23-5:2	Mark 1:39; 3:7-13 Luke 6:12, 17-20a
I. Triadic Pronouncements That Constitute the Disciples as the Eschatological Community, 5:3-16		
A. The Beatitudes: Character and Destiny of the Disciples	5:3-12	Luke 6:20b-23
B. The Disciples as Salt	5:13	Luke 14:34-35 Mark 9:49-50
C. The Disciples as Light and a City on a Hill	5:14-16	Luke 8:16; 11:33 Mark 4:21
II. Tripartite Instructions on the Way of Life in the Eschatological Community, 5:17-7:12		
A. Part One: "The Law"	5:17-48	
1. The Law and the "Greater Righteousness"	5:17-20	Luke 16:16-17
2. Three Antitheses Modeling the Greater Righteousness, 5:21-32		
a. Anger	5:21-26	Luke 12:57-59 Mark 11:25
b. Lust	5:27-30	Mark 9:43
c. Divorce	5:31-32	Luke 16:18 Mark 10:3-4; 11:12
3. Three Antitheses for the Disciples' Application, 5:33-48		
a. Oaths	5:33-37	M
b. Retaliation	5:38-42	Luke 6:29-30
c. Love	5:43-48	Luke 6:27-28, 32-36
B. Part Two: "The Temple Service": Three Acts of Righteousness Before God, 6:1-18		
1. Giving to Charity	6:1-4	M
2. Prayer, 6:5-15		
a. Not like the hypocrites or the Gentiles	6:5-8	M
b. The Lord's Prayer	6:9-13	Luke 11:2-4
c. The condition of forgiveness	6:14-15	Mark 11:25(-26)
3. Fasting	6:16-18	M
C. Part Three: "Deeds of Loving Kindness": Additional Instruction in Authentic Righteousness, 6:19-7:12		
1. Serving God or Mammon	6:19-24	Luke 12:33-34 11:34-36 16:13
2. Anxiety	6:25-34	Luke 12:22-32
3. Judging	7:1-5	Luke 6:37-42 Mark 4:24-25
4. Pearls Before Swine	7:6	M
5. Asking and Receiving	7:7-11	Luke 11:9-13
6. Concluding Summary: The Golden Rule	7:12	Luke 6:31
III. Three Eschatological Warnings, 7:13-27		
A. Two Ways	7:13-14	Luke 13:23-24
B. Two Harvests (False Prophets)	7:15-23	Luke 6:43-46; 13:25-27
C. Two Builders	7:24-27	Luke 6:47-49
Conclusion of the Sermon	7:28-29	Mark 1:22