

The Sermon on the Mount

Learning to Follow Jesus

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Chapel of St. George
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“If anyone were to ponder with piety and seriousness the sermon which our Lord Jesus Christ gave on the mount, I believe that he would discover there, as far as norms for high moral living are concerned, the perfect way to lead the Christian life.”

- St. Augustine of Hippo, *De sermone Domini in monte*, 1,1

The Sermon on the Mount: The Gospel of St. Matthew, chapters 5-7

- Similar material can be found in the so-called “Sermon on the Plain” in Luke 6:17-49

The Beatitudes (5:3-11)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Some possible interpretative approaches to the Sermon on the Mount:

The “Catholic” Interpretation

An Idealistic Moral Theory

An Interim Morality

A Social Program

A Purified Christian Morality

The Lutheran Interpretation

The Catholic Interpretation