

## Introduction

In the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5–7, Jesus sets forth the foundational truths of the gospel of the kingdom He came to proclaim...The underlying and overarching theme of Christ’s sermon is that man has no righteousness of his own that can survive the scrutiny of God...salvation and blessing are offered freely by the grace of the King and must be received by faith...It shows the absolute necessity of the new birth.

John MacArthur

*Matthew: The Coming of the King*, p. 23

This year we are memorizing Ephesians 2. This week’s verse is Ephesians 2:2:  
“In which you formerly walked according to the course of this world,  
according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of  
disobedience.”

## Day One

Read Matthew 5; **The Beatitudes**

**Note:** “The eight Beatitudes do not describe eight different kinds of people (poor in spirit, mournful, meek, etc.) and eight different kinds of rewards (kingdom of heaven, comfort, inherit the earth, etc.). Rather, they describe the qualities of one person who will receive one reward—entrance into God’s kingdom.”

Todd Bolen, Professor of Biblical Studies, The

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1. What encouraged or convicted you from last week’s lesson or lecture?
  
2. In two or three sentences, summarize the teaching of Matthew 1–4 from last week’s study.
  
3. In Matthew 5:3 and 10, what phrase is repeated? How does that deepen your understanding of the Beatitudes as a whole?
  - a. In Matthew 5:3 and 10, what are the requirements to enter the kingdom of heaven?
  
  - b. Do you think it is possible for any person to meet those requirements? Explain your answer.
  
  - c. According to Psalms 51:17 and 86:5, Joel 2:12–13, and Isaiah 57:15, what characteristics does God treasure in the life of a believer?
  
  - d. What comfort does the knowledge of the kingdom of heaven bring you?
  
4. In which of the Beatitude characteristics are you most convicted of your need to grow? What practical steps can you take to make that happen? Be specific.

## Day Two

Read Matthew 5:21–6:18; **Two Kinds of Righteousness**

1. In Matthew 5:21–6:18, what two kinds of righteousness are contrasted?
  - a. What did Jesus make clear that the Law really taught?
2. From the following texts, list the sin(s) described, God's standard(s), then identify one specific area where you need to grow and how you will plan to do that.
  - a. Matthew 5:21–26
  - b. Matthew 5:31–32
  - c. Matthew 5:43–48
  - d. Matthew 6:1–4
  - e. Matthew 6:5–14
  - f. Mathew 6:16–18
3. Read Matthew 6:5–15, and evaluate your own personal prayers. What areas of your prayer life can you change to more closely model how the Lord taught His disciples to pray?

## Day Three

Read Matthew 6:19–7:28; **Waiting for the Kingdom**

1. From Matthew 6:19–7:14, briefly list the ways one is to live while waiting for the Kingdom to be established.
2. Matthew 6:19–20 talks of laying up treasure in heaven. How do you think a believer can do that?
  - a. Identify an area in your life where you might be anxious or worried, find a verse that addresses this area, and share that with your group.
3. From Matthew 7:1–5, identify an area in your life where you are quick to point out the faults of others. What steps can you take to focus on the changes *you* need to make before focusing on others?
4. Read Matthew 7:7–12, and list one way you can love others the way you want to be loved.

## Day Four

Read Matthew 8 and 9; **Jesus Performed Many Miracles**

1. From John 3:2, Acts 2:22–23, and Hebrews 2:3–4, what are the purposes of Jesus' miracles?

2. From Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 25:8, 35:5–6 and 53:4, what should the true Davidic King do when He came?
  - a. How do these texts relate to Jesus' miracles? What would this have made clear to the Israelites?
3. According to Matthew 9:1–7, what claim did Jesus make?
4. From Matthew 8:10, 22, 27–31, and 35–38, identify some expectations that Jesus has for His people.

## Day Five

*Read Matthew 10 and 11; **Jesus Calls and Sends Out the Disciples***

1. In Matthew 10:5–15, what did Jesus instruct the disciples to do?
2. From verses 16–25, what did Jesus say was going to be the response to the message of the Kingdom?
  - a. Even though Jesus was speaking to His disciples about the Kingdom and the church was not yet revealed, do you think we should expect a different response when we share the gospel? Explain your answer.
3. In Matthew 11:2–3, why do you think John questioned whether Jesus was the Messiah?
  - a. From verses 4–6, what was Jesus' response?
4. What most encouraged you from the portions of Scripture covered in this lesson?

## Questions for additional study:

1. From Exodus 19:6 and Leviticus 20:26, what was Israel's purpose as a nation? How does this tie into Matthew 5:13–16?
2. From Matthew 5:17–20, called the "heart of the Sermon on the Mount" by some Bible scholars, what is Jesus' message?
3. Compare Jesus' teaching in Luke 6:20–31 with Matthew's retelling of the Sermon on the Mount and note similarities and differences.

**Matthew 5-11**  
**The Teaching and Miracles of the King**

I. Matthew 5-7

The Sermon on the Mount: Who Will Enter the Kingdom?

II. Matthew 8-9

The Miracles of Jesus: How Do We Know Jesus Is the Prophesied King?

III. Matthew 10

The Apostles Instructed and Sent Out: What Is Our Mission?

IV. Matthew 11

The Invitation to Come to Christ: Where Do We Find Rest?