

Lesson:10 The Sermon on the Mount (I)

Objective: To know that the chief aim of the Christian life is to please and to glorify our Father in heaven.

Background: One day, after spending all night in prayer to God, Jesus chose twelve disciples (Luke 6: 12-16) and began to train them to become "disciple makers." The so-called "The Sermon on the Mount" recorded in Matthew chapters 5-7 was the teaching of Jesus given for that purpose.

Instruction: Familiarize yourself with Matthew Chapter 5.

Let's Think: Imagine you are one of the disciples listening to Jesus.

Mt 5:3-16, Jesus describes the character of the Kingdom people and their influence in the world. Some call the Beatitudes (Mt 5:3-12) the soul of the Sermon.

1. Use the Beatitudes to examine yourself by asking, " Am I ?" Are these character qualities valued in our culture? Why or why not? Identify one quality that is least developed and needs to be developed in your life, and think how you would cultivate it.
2. Is there a connection between the believers' character, Mt5:3-12, and their influence, Mt 5:13-16? Explain. What do you think will happen when the believers *either conform to* the world (Rm.12: 1-2) or *isolate themselves from* the world (Jn. 17:14-15)? Explain.

Mt 5:21-48, Jesus contrasts the "inner" righteous the Kingdom of God requires to the "external" righteousness of Judaism, v.20. He deals with six distinct, critical issues in the area of human relationships.

3. Are "anger and murder" related? How about "lust and adultery"? In what way does God's judgment differ from that of men? (21-22a; 27 -28; also 1 Samuel 16:7).
4. What is your view of marriage and divorce? (Mt 5:31-32; also Mt 19:3-9) How does it compare with that of Jesus'? Does divorce always solve the problem? Could you think of an example? Does a majority practice make it right for the believers? Why or why not?
5. Do you agree with the statement that "Oaths arise because men are so often liars"? Do you need to work in this area of a simple answer of "yes" or "no" in your life? If so, what steps do you need to take? (Mt 5:33-37)
6. Does Jesus forbid retaliation? Do we ever settle problems by "getting even" with those who wrong us? Why or why not? (3Mt 5: 8-39).
7. What reasons does Jesus give for loving our enemies? Is love a "feeling" in the light of this passage? (Mt 5:43-48; Mt 5:10-12) How would prayer help us and our enemies? (Mt 4: 43-48; 1Mt 5:10-12) Explain.

For Prayer and Meditation: Are there opportunities to glorify God which come my way daily but are overlooked? Am I doing my job daily to the glory of God?

Let's Remember: Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5: 16).