

Sermon on the Mount Overview

Explanation

No text in the New Testament is more important than the Sermon on the Mount. It has been called the “sermon of sermons,” the Lord’s most masterful speech, and some consider it the greatest discourse ever given. Understanding the Sermon on the Mount is crucial to understanding the New Testament. These three chapters in the Gospel of Matthew have probably influenced Christian values and lifestyle more than any other section of the New Testament.

Chart 9-3 offers an overview of the Sermon on the Mount. Many people have wondered whether the Sermon is a single coherent text or whether it is, instead, a scrapbook of miscellaneous sayings without any particular structure or organizing principle. Recent scholarship, however, has begun to see the Sermon as a baptismal catechism or an instructional text teaching baptized Christians their advanced duties as members of the kingdom of God. While the Sermon on the Mount certainly contains many ethical and social teachings, it also goes far beyond the regular scope of an ordinary moral discourse.

References

- John W. Welch, *Illuminating the Sermon at the Temple and Sermon on the Mount* (Provo, Utah: FARMS, 1999), 102–3.
Hans Dieter Betz, *The Sermon on the Mount* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995).
Herman Hendrickx, *The Sermon on the Mount* (London: Chapman, 1984).
“Sermon on the Mount,” *WRC*, 49–52.

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Matthew 5–7

Beatitudes, ultimate blessings in the kingdom of heaven	5:2
Rejoice and be glad	5:12
Commission to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world	5:13
Instruction to obey all the commandments in their fullness	5:17
Prohibition against anger, ridicule, or brotherly unkindness	5:21
Requirement to reconcile and settle disputes quickly	5:23
Prohibition against adultery and lust	5:27
Protection of marriage and chastity against divorce and fornication	5:31
Swear your oaths not by heaven or earth, but by honestly saying “Yes”	5:33
Love your neighbor, turn other cheek, go the second mile, love your enemy	5:38
Be ye therefore perfect as is your Father in Heaven	5:48
Requirement to give alms to the poor	6:1
Pray privately in your closet	6:5
Pray together with the faithful, the Lord’s Prayer as an example	6:9
Fasting, washing, anointing	6:16
Lay up treasures in heaven, for where your treasure is there is your heart	6:19
Have an eye single, consecrated and pure, that you may be full of light	6:22
Choose this day between loving God or mammon	6:24
God will clothe you in glorious garments	6:30
God will give you sufficient for your daily needs	6:33
God will judge you as you have judged others, the mote and the beam	7:1
Give not your holy thing to the dogs, neither cast your pearls before swine	7:6
Ask, seek, and knock	7:7
Your Father gives good gifts	7:11
Do unto others as you would have them do unto you	7:12
Enter in at the strait gate on the narrow path	7:13
Beware of false prophets	7:15
By their fruits ye shall know them	7:17
Not everyone that saith Lord, Lord, shall enter into his presence	7:21
Some will be told to depart	7:23
Hear and do, build your house on a rock, the wise man and the foolish man	7:24