



Study 1

MATTHEW 5:1–16

Jesus' ministry on earth included much memorable preaching and teaching. The highlight may be His famous "Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew 5–7). In this remarkable sermon, Jesus delivered practical and difficult teaching that helped to reshape His followers' understanding of the law of Moses.

Jesus opened His sermon by speaking what we call the "Beatitudes," or statements of blessing. Each of these statements begins with the words "blessed are. . ." and then goes on to say who is blessed and why.

Throughout scripture God calls His people to live by standards very different than those of the world. We are to not just behave differently, but to be different in our attitudes and thinking. That is one of the overarching themes of the Sermon on the Mount, and specifically the Beatitudes.

MATTHEW 5:1–16 OUTLINE

- (VERSES 1–2) Jesus begins teaching
- (VERSES 3–10) The people God blesses, and why
- (VERSES 11–12) The blessings of being persecuted, and of loving God and His Word
- (VERSES 13–16) Being salt and light

THE BEATITUDES

¹And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated, His disciples came to Him. ²And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying,

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you, and say all manner of evil

against you falsely for My sake. ¹²Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its savor, with what shall it be salted? It is thereafter good for nothing but to be cast out and to be trampled underfoot by men.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Observe

What do the Beatitudes say about what it takes to live a blessed life?

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What do verses 11-12 say about understanding and responding to opposition and persecution?

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What did Jesus say about being salt and light?

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Interpret

What did Jesus mean when He used the word *blessed*?

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What does it mean to be poor in spirit, and what does it have to do with inheriting the kingdom of heaven?

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What does it mean to be salt and light in this world?

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Apply

How can you be a more merciful person—and why does that matter?

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What needs to change so you can be a peacemaker in every area of your life?

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How and why should you focus each day on being light in this world?

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MATTHEW 5:1-16 SCRIPTURE FOR MEMORIZATION/MEDITATION

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

VERSE 16

VERSES FOR FURTHER MEMORIZATION/MEDITATION

- And all things are from God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation—namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-19).
- For to you it is given on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake (Philippians 1:29).
- And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father by Him (Colossians 3:17).



Study 2

LUKE 5:1–11

Jesus was about to begin His earthly ministry, and it was now time for Him to gather together twelve disciples, the men who would travel with, observe, and learn from Him for the next three years. . .then take His message of salvation to the world around them.

Luke 5:1–11 tells of Jesus teaching crowds at the lake of Gennesaret. Afterward, He invited three fishermen—Peter, James, and John—to follow Him and “catch men.” Jesus performed a shocking miracle that showed these disciples not just who He was but who He would be to them from that day forward.

As you read this passage, pay special attention to the new disciples’ reactions to what they have just seen.

LUKE 5:1–11 OUTLINE

- (VERSES 1–3) Jesus teaches from a fishing boat
- (VERSE 4) Jesus’ instruction and the fishermen’s response
- (VERSES 5–7) The miraculous catch of fish
- (VERSE 8) Simon Peter’s response to a miracle
- (VERSES 9–11) Jesus’ call to discipleship

CALLING THE FIRST DISCIPLES

¹And it came to pass, that as the people pressed on Him to hear the word of God, He stood by the lake of Gennesaret ²and saw two ships standing by the lake. But the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³And He entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and asked him to thrust out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people out of the ship.

⁴Now when He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

⁵And Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all the night and have taken nothing. Nevertheless, at Your word I will let down the net." ⁶And when they had done this, they caught a great multitude of fish, and their net was breaking. ⁷And they beckoned to their partners who were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. ⁸When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

⁹For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of the fish that they had taken. ¹⁰And so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear. From now on you shall catch men." ¹¹And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

Observe

What command did Jesus give Simon?

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How did Simon respond to the miraculous catch of fish?

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What specific words did Jesus use to call Simon to ministry?

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Interpret

Why did Jesus choose to minister from Simon’s fishing boat?

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Why would Simon push Jesus away after witnessing such a wonderful miracle? Why did he not simply fall on his face and worship the Lord?

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How did this miracle help to shape the way these fishermen viewed Jesus?

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Apply

In the past, how have you responded to Jesus interrupting your schedule or plans? How will you respond moving forward?

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When has Jesus shown you He is far greater than your best abilities? How did that revelation build or strengthen your faith?

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What would it look like to forsake all and follow Jesus? How can you realistically walk that out daily?

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LUKE 5:1-11 SCRIPTURES FOR MEMORIZATION/MEDITATION

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear. From now on you shall catch men." And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

VERSES 10-11

VERSES FOR FURTHER MEMORIZATION/MEDITATION

- And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice and to listen than the fat of rams" (1 Samuel 15:22).
- "Certainly I will be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: when you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain" (Exodus 3:12).
- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control. Against such there is no law (Galatians 5:22-23).
- But the Lord said to him, "Go your way, for he is a chosen vessel for Me, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake" (Acts 9:15-16).



Study 3

JOHN 2:1-11

The four Gospels record some three dozen miracles performed by Jesus, the first His turning water into wine at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus saved face for the wedding host, for it was a major social *faux pas* to run out of wine at such a celebration.

At His mother Mary's request, Jesus transformed about 120 gallons of water into high quality wine. Jesus saved the day for the wedding host and began a ministry that included even more spectacular acts that brought glory to His Father in heaven. His miracles also provided evidence that Jesus was worthy of men and women's faith.

In bringing the problem to Jesus and then instructing the wedding servants to do as Jesus said, Mary showed that she was a woman of faith.

JOHN 2:1-11 OUTLINE

- (VERSES 1-2) Jesus and His disciples are invited to the wedding in Cana
- (VERSES 3-4) Mary brings a problem to Jesus, and He responds
- (VERSE 5) Mary acts in faith
- (VERSES 6-8) The miracle of changing water into wine
- (VERSES 9-10) The high quality of the wine
- (VERSE 11) The disciples' response



THE WEDDING AT CANA: THE FIRST MIRACLE

¹And the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²And both Jesus and His disciples were called to the wedding. ³And when they lacked wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."

⁴Jesus said to her, "Woman, what have I to do with you? My hour has not yet come."

⁵His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

⁶And there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. ⁹When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine and did not know where it was from (but the servants who drew the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out good wine, and when men have well drunk, then what is worse. But you have kept the good wine until now."

¹¹This beginning of miracles Jesus did in Cana of Galilee and revealed His glory. And His disciples believed in Him.