

The Gospel of Matthew

The gospel of the Messiah, His Kingdom and His People

LESSON 3

MATTHEW 5 – 6:16

I. Chapter 5

The first sermon of Jesus' ministry that Matthew presents is the Sermon on the Mount. As Brother Earnhart has described it, this sermon sets forth the nature of the kingdom and kingdom citizens. Remember the context for Jesus' preaching set by Matthew's statements in 4: 17, 23.

- *vv. 1 – 16 The Beatitudes*

Question 1: Summarize the character of a kingdom citizen from the Lord's instruction in the Beatitudes.

Question 2: What is the mission in the world for Christ's disciples? vv. 14-16

- *vv. 17-20*

Following the Beatitudes, Jesus sets forth instructions that appear to be directed against false teachings that had arisen among the Jews and which established a false standard of righteousness for God's people.

Question 3: What context or premise does Jesus set for the remainder of his teaching in the sermon? v. 17. What relationship to the Law did Jesus identify for himself?

Question 4: What principle toward the Law is to govern His kingdom? v. 19. How does Jesus appear to describe the righteousness of the Pharisees? v. 19a; Matt. 23:13; Lk. 12:1.

- *vv. 22-30*

Question 5: How does Jesus present himself to the people with His statement, "but I say to you"? Mt. 7:29.

Question 6: What is the kingdom's standard of righteousness? v. 8, 28.

Question 7: To what degree are Christ's disciples to desire His kingdom? vv. 6, 30.

- vv. 31-37

Question 8: What does Jesus demand of his disciples in terms of their motives? vv. 32, 37.

- vv. 38-48

Question 9: What is Jesus telling Jews, especially Zealots, about the nature of His kingdom by His instructions in vv. 39, 42, 44? See Isa. 50: 5-7; Lam. 3:30.

Question 10: What standard of charity and righteousness did Jesus identify for his disciples? v. 42, 46-48. Deut. 15:8.

II. Chapter 6

Having corrected false teachings, and the selfish motives that underlie them, Jesus then turns to false *practices* that had arisen among the Jews.

- vv. 1-18

Question 11: What sin does Jesus warn against in vv. 1, 5, 16? Is it one of action only or also motive? What principle should we take from this warning in order to be true disciples? v. 3, 6, 17.

Question 12: What is Jesus emphasizing about God that He “sees in secret”?

Question 13: What is the character and motive of the “hypocrites” whom Jesus says we must not be like?

- vv. 9-13 “The Model Prayer”

Focusing on verses 9-13 that present what may be called the Lord’s model prayer, Jesus instructs by example on the proper motive that is to underlie practices devoted to God. It stands in contrast to the motive of “the hypocrites” He has criticized.

Question 14: What spirit does Jesus emphasize in his model prayer? What point does he then identify from this prayer? vv. 14-15.

Question 15: How does the model prayer illustrate Jesus’ teaching from 6:33? (Note the emphasis on the kingdom in both.)