

Simply Jesus

The Life and Ministry of God's Son

Inductive: Lesson 5

Introduction

By now, Jesus had throngs following Him, people seeking Him wherever He traveled, hoping for a word or a personal touch or a miracle to make a difference in their lives. Also among the masses were individuals who were students of the law seeking to find and understand the truth. The time had now come for Jesus to selectively single out twelve men who would be His disciples—His apostles. The word *disciple* means “student,” or one who is taught by another. The word *apostle* refers to “sent ones”—those who are divinely sent on a specific mission. The events recorded in Matthew 10 and Luke 6 present a detailed account of the calling and commissioning of the twelve who would be empowered and equipped with divine authority to deliver Jesus’ message on His behalf.

The Gospels frequently show Jesus praying to the Father, particularly before significant events in His ministry. Luke’s account (6:12–13), specifically mentions that on one occasion Jesus “continued all night in prayer,” underscoring the importance of what was about to transpire. Matthew 10:2–4, records for us in familiar order the names of the twelve apostles: “Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.” These He called apart, assembling them on a mountainside, and began to teach them the meaning of sacrificing all to follow Jesus into the kingdom of life!

We begin this lesson with an up close look at the Sermon on the Mount—Part Two. It is impossible to plumb the depths of this message in its entirety; instead we will examine a few of the more prominent highlights. In it, Jesus expounds on the virtues of the law and man’s inability and futility in attempting to live by its standards on his own merit. Jesus’ purpose in teaching it is to leave sinners with the realization that they are dependent solely on God’s grace for salvation. Matthew 7 closes the Sermon on the Mount with a practical application: there are two gates, two ways, two possible destinations, and two groups of people (vv. 13–14). There are also two kinds of trees and two kinds of fruit; two types of builders on two different foundations (vv. 24–28). Jesus spells it out clearly and the choice is ours: one way leads to eternal destruction and one way leads to eternal life!

Did you know

Mark was a co-worker of the Apostle Paul (in the Book of Acts) and a close companion of Peter. Their relationship is evident from Peter's description of him as "Mark my son" (1 Peter 5:13). Both men knew the lessons that come from failure, Peter learning them from following Jesus. It was Peter's influence on a young Mark that was instrumental in helping him learn from the difficulties of his youth and in preparing him for the challenges that would face him in the ministry to which God had called him as an adult.

Mark wrote his Gospel account in Rome to connect with the Roman Christians in the city. Today's modern reader would conclude that Mark cuts to the chase, beginning with Jesus as an adult who is ready to begin His ministry. He portrays brief, quick events that often emphasize a theme of authority—that Jesus was both under authority and in authority. Mark uses this theme effectively to illustrate Jesus' power over the circumstances and difficulties people face in life. He portrays Jesus less as a storyteller and more of an activist to allow his audience insight into the person of Jesus and the power of the Gospel message.

Open your Bible and lesson each day by beginning with a word of prayer.

Up Close ~

The chart below represents a reader's guide to the contents of this week's lesson. The topical teachings and/or events covered are followed by the primary scriptural text as well as the supportive parallel passages. You will be able to receive and grasp a well-rounded picture of the story narrative in the Gospel harmony by reading every passage. However, using the bolded text as your point of reference (your anchor text) will allow you to determine the facts, lessons, and personal applications necessary to formulate your own conclusions.

For this week's lesson, read all of the Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5, 6 and 7.

<u>Teaching / Event</u>	<u>Scripture Text</u>	<u>Parallel Passages</u>
Sermon on the Mount: Selected topics	Matt. 5:21–24, 31–32, 43–48 Matthew 6:5–15, 19–21, 25–34 Matthew 7:1–6, 12–14, 15–20	Luke 6:27–36, 37–42

First Impressions: Group Discussion

Reflect for a moment on the passages you have just read.

Respond by recording your first impressions from your initial reading of the text. Be prepared to share one of your impressions with your discussion group.

Heartbeat: (Memory Verse) This week choose your own verse from the Sermon on the Mount. (Write out the verse in the spaces below. Practice it each time you open your lesson.)

Matthew 5, 6 and 7 NKJV

Sermon on the Mount: Selected Topics

Matthew 5:

21 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire.

23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way.

First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

31 “Furthermore it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ 32 But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.”

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

Matthew 6:

5 “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. 7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Therefore do not be like them.

For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. 9 In this manner, therefore pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

14 For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

25 “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 28 So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

31 Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

Matthew 7:

1 “Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’, and look, a plank is in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

6 Do not give what is holy to the dogs, nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.”

12 “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the prophets. 13 Enter “by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? 17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.

19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”

(Scripture from the New King James Bible, © 1980 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.)

Observation: Look!

Pray. Read through the Bible passage several times, trying to get a big picture of what is going on.

Left Column (Facts): Following the writer in the order he tells the story, briefly describe who is involved, what is happening, when and where the events are taking place.

Right Column (Observations): Look closely to observe details. Some questions you may ask:

- What do you know about the people involved in the story? What questions does the story raise? What sources of conflict do you see? What does Jesus identify as true and important to life?
- Put yourself in the Biblical character's shoes. What were his ambitions? How did the character relate to others or to God? What problem did he think he faced? Did Jesus identify a different problem in his life? What did he discover about God? How did he respond?
- Are there any words that you are not familiar with? Look up the definition.
- Are there words or phrases that are repeated or emphasized? Why are they key?
- Identify comparisons, such as "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven..." What do you know about leaven (yeast)? Identify contrasts, such as "You have heard it said...but I say to you..."
- Extra: Record information you may find in Bible dictionaries, maps, handbooks, or encyclopedias. Understanding the culture/time in which Jesus lived will help you discover the meaning of the text.

Matthew 5:21–24 Jesus teaches about prayer

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

Matthew 5:31–32 Jesus teaches about divorce

Matthew 5:43–48 Jesus teaches about loving enemies

Matthew 6:5–15 Jesus teaches about prayer

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

Matthew 6:19–21 Jesus teaches about money

Matthew 6:25–34 Jesus teaches about worry

Matthew 7:1–6 Jesus teaches about judging others

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Matthew 7:12–14 Jesus teaches about the way to heaven

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Matthew 7:15–20 Jesus teaches about the fruit of people’s lives

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Interpretation: What Does It Mean?

Pray. The more time you take to observe the passage, the more you will have a basis for understanding what God’s Word means. Interpretation **always** seeks to answer the questions, “What was God saying to the original audience?” and then, “How does that same truth relate to life today?” Asking yourself questions will help you see the spiritual lesson in the text: What does this teach me is true about God? What does it teach me is true about mankind? Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to the promise? Is there an example I should follow or avoid? A spiritual lesson is a timeless truth that points to God and speaks to the heart of man. **Stating the lesson in a sentence of 10 words or less will help you keep it simple and memorable.**

Application: How Does it Apply to Me?

Pray. Practicing Biblical truth day-to-day is the only way to grow in Christ and reflect the glory of God. To apply the spiritual lesson you have learned from the text, you have to take deliberate action. Take the time to examine yourself, and ask: Does this spiritual lesson point out error in my thoughts about God? Does it point to error in my attitude or actions? How does this lesson relate to my home life, my work, my relationships, how I spend my time, etc? What change is

required? What practical steps will I take to make that change? Write your application in the form of a question to help make it personal.

Matthew 5:21–24

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Matthew 5:31–32

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Matthew 5:43–48

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Matthew 6:5–15

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Matthew 6:19–21

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Matthew 6:25–34

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Matthew 7:1–6

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Matthew 7:12–14

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Matthew 7:15–20

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Behold & Be Transformed

What did you *see* as you beheld God's Son?

How does beholding (looking upon) Him, motivate you to change your thoughts, habit, attitude, speech or actions?

Pause . . . What is the most significant lesson you have learned this week?

Ponder . . . How will you put it into practice?

Pray . . . Write out your prayer and be specific.
