

Handout 1: Matthew Lesson 5

The 5 discourses of Matthew's Gospel

1. The Sermon on the Mount	Matthew 5:1-7:29
2. The Missionary Discourse	Matthew 10:5-11:1
3. The Parables Discourse	Matthew 13:1-53
4. The Homily to the Church	Matthew 18:1-19:1
5. The Eschatological Discourse	Matthew 24:1-26:1

The Five-part Structure of the Sermon on the Mount

- I. Introduction (5:1-16)
- II. Teaching on the Law (5:17-48)
- III. Teaching on right religious practices (6:1-18)
- IV. Teaching on material possessions, human relationships and our relationship with God (6:19-7:12)
- V. Conclusion (7:13-27)

There are three major theories that Bible scholars have developed to account for the differences between Matthew's Sermon on the Mount and Luke's Sermon on the Plain:

1. Both Gospels give accounts of the same discourse.
2. The Gospels reflect two different homilies spoken at different times during Jesus' teaching ministry.
3. The Gospels present two homilies delivered in close succession: one on the summit of the mountain to the disciples and then a second homily on the plain to the multitude.

The four issues of social justice Jesus addresses in St. Luke's Gospel and the promised blessing:

1. He promised the poor that they will inherit the Kingdom of Heaven.
2. He promised the hungry that they will be filled.
3. He promised the sorrowful that they will become joyful.
4. He promised those who are persecuted for following Him that they will be rewarded in heaven just as the prophets of God were rewarded.

The four curses/judgments that He pronounced on the rich who allow poverty to increase without using the blessings of their material wealth to comfort the poor and suffering. The rich who do not share their wealth will only receive temporal blessings in this life but will remain spiritually impoverished, and they will have no share in the eternal blessings promised in the heavenly kingdom:

1. They will have no "wealth" in eternity.
2. They may be full now, but they will be hungry for eternity.
3. They may experience joy now, but they will suffer later beyond this earthly existence.
4. They are compared to those who persecuted God's holy prophets.

A "blessing" in Sacred Scripture evokes the supernatural creative power of God and can only come directly from God or through the mediation of His priestly representative who requests on behalf of the people, God's divine blessing. Hebrew = *barak*; Greek = *makarios* (ma-car'-e-os), which means *the state of bliss experienced by the Greek gods or upon the mortals who receive their special favor becoming themselves semi-divine.*

Handout 2: Matthew Lesson 5

HOLY MOUNTAINS OF GOD WHERE GOD’S PRESENCE WAS MANIFESTED

Mountain	Scripture Passage
1. The Garden of Eden: Located on a mountain from which 4 rivers flowed.	Gen 2:10; Ez 28:12-14
2. Mt. Moriah: Site of the substitutionary atonement of the ram in place of the sacrifice of Abraham’s son Isaac. The site where David saw the Angel of the Lord standing with his sword in his hand ready to destroy Jerusalem until David built an altar there and made atonement through sacrifice. The site where Solomon built the Temple of the One True God. Jesus made atonement for the sins of mankind and was crucified and resurrected on a lower elevation of Mt. Moriah.	Gen 22:2; 1Chr 21:15-17; 2Chr 3:1; Mt 27:33, 59; 28:1-7; Mk 15:22, 46; 16:1-6; Lk 23:33, 53; 24:1-6; Jn 19:17, 38-42; 20:4-9
3. Mt. Sinai/Horeb: Giving of the Law, the formation of the Sinai Covenant and birth of the Old Covenant Church. The site of God’s appearance to Elijah.	Ex 19:12-40:38; 1 Kng 19:11-18
4. Mt. Carmel: Site of Elijah’s defeat of the prophets of Baal (<i>carmel</i> is a Hebrew word for “garden”).	1 Kng 18
5. Mt. of Temptation: The site where Jesus, the “new Adam,” resisted Satan.	Mt 4:8-11; Lk 4:1-13
6. Mt. of Beatitudes: The commissioning of the Twelve Apostles and the giving of the New Covenant law.	Mt 5:1-7; Mk 3:13-19; Lk 6:12-16
6. Mt. at Caesarea Philippi: Jesus’ official commissioning of Peter as Vicar of the New Covenant Church.	Mt 16:13-19; Mk 8:27-30; Lk 9:18-21
8. Mt. of Transfiguration: Jesus appeared in His glory.	Mt 17:1-8; Mk 9:2-8; Lk 9:28-36 (Peter refers to this place as “the holy mountain” in 2 Pt 1:16-18)
10. Mt. of Olives: Jesus is arrested in a garden on the Mt. of Olives. Jesus ascends to the Father from the Mt. of Olives. It will be the site of Christ’s return in His Second Coming.	Mt 26:47ff; Mk 14:43ff; Lk 22:47ff; Jn 18:3ff; Acts 1:1-12; Zech 14:3-5
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Note: I did not include Mt. Ararat (see Gen 8:4) because, although God did place the redeemed family of Noah on that mountain, there was no visible manifestation of His presence or any single act signifying His presence.

Blessed are they (blessed are you) who are persecuted: we take up our crosses and follow Jesus, committing ourselves to everything He has taught us, even enduring persecution for His sake, but doing so joyfully because we know He has promised us eternal life in our Father's Kingdom.

With Christ living in us we become conformed to His image of peace and love → In the image of Christ we become the divine children of His Father

"The only ladder to heaven is the Cross"
-- St. Rose of Lima

Blessed are the peacemakers

When old hearts are replaced with the pure heart of Jesus our Redeemer → We will see God's face in the faces of everyone with whom we share His love.

Blessed are the pure in heart

Being merciful and showing forgiveness → You will be given mercy and forgiveness through Jesus' perfect Sacrifice on the Cross

Blessed are the merciful

Seeking the King of Righteousness → You will be filled by Christ in the Eucharist

← **Turning Point**

Blessed are those who hunger & thirst for righteousness

Yield our will to God's will for our lives = renewal → Inherit "the Land"; the Church = dominion to bind and loose

Blessed are the meek

Mourn own sins and world sin = purification → Comfort & strength, Reconciliation

Blessed are those who mourn

Those who acknowledge their need for God → Kingdom of Heaven = eternal life promised through Baptism and faithfully living the Law of love on a life time journey of faith

Blessed are the poor in spirit

The Progression of the Beatitudes

Beatitudes contain 7 or 8 (depending on how you count them) successive fundamental spiritual states that every Christian must strive to achieve. The Beatitudes must be lived fully and completely just as the 10 Commandments have to be lived in their entirety. **Gospel of St. Matthew 5:1-11**