



# DEEPENING LIFE TOGETHER

## SERMON ON THE MOUNT

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*GROWING to be like Christ (Discipleship)*

### SERMON ON THE MOUNT - SESSION 1

## PEOPLE WHO CHANGE THE WORLD

Read Matthew 5:1-16 aloud.

1. Each of the Beatitudes begins with the word "blessed." Who is blessed according to these verses?
2. Discuss the point that Jesus makes in each of the Beatitudes by answering the two questions below:
  - a. Blessed are the **poor in spirit** (v. 3); those who **mourn** (v.4); the **meek** (v. 5); those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness** (v. 6); the **merciful** (v. 7); the **pure in heart** (v. 8); the **peacemakers** (v. 9); those **persecuted because of righteousness** (vv. 10-11).
    - i. How does this apply to our lives?
    - ii. How do we fall short?
3. Why is it so difficult for a follower of Christ to put Jesus' words into practice?
  - a. What should we do to begin living as Jesus wants us to?
4. How do each of these blessings relate to one another? – Theirs [*poor in spirit*] is the **kingdom of heaven** (v. 3); they [*mourn*] will be **comforted** (v. 4); they [*meek*] will **inherit the earth** (v. 5); they [*hunger and thirst for righteousness*] will be **filled** (v. 6); they [*merciful*] will be **shown mercy** (v. 7); they [*pure in heart*] will **see God** (v. 8); they [*peacemakers*] will be **called children of God** (v. 9); theirs [*persecuted because of righteousness*] is the **kingdom of heaven** (vv. 10-11).
  - a. How will understanding these blessings help us live as kingdom-minded citizens?
5. Matthew 5:6 says: "*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.*" *Righteousness* means "right standing with God." Based on the words of Jesus in the Beatitudes, what do you think hungering and thirsting for righteousness should look like in a Christian's life?
6. What substitutions do Christians tend to hunger for instead of righteousness?
  - a. How can we overcome our hunger for these substitutes? (See **1 John 5:3-4** for insight.)
7. What do you think Jesus means by peacemakers in verse 9?
8. We are aliens in this world and will suffer persecution for standing up for God's standards of righteousness. What forms does this persecution take in our day-to-day lives?
  - a. What can help you persevere when this happens?
9. What have you learned about your own attitudes during this session?
  - a. What has God revealed to you?
10. Jesus tells us that living the Beatitudes will enable us to be salt and light (vv. 13-16), the transforming presence of God in the world today. What do you think it means to be salt and light? (Facilitator read Study Notes about salt and light.)
  - a. How can living out these attitudes and actions help us to become salt and light?

*"Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD. Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart." – Psalm 119:1-2*



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## *SERMON ON THE MOUNT - SESSION 1 - SCRIPTURE*

### Matthew 5:1-16 - New Living Translation

#### **The Sermon on the Mount**

**5** One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them.

#### **The Beatitudes**

<sup>3</sup> "God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him,<sup>[a]</sup>  
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

<sup>4</sup> God blesses those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> God blesses those who are humble,  
for they will inherit the whole earth.

<sup>6</sup> God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice,<sup>[a]</sup>  
for they will be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> God blesses those who are merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup> God blesses those whose hearts are pure,  
for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> God blesses those who work for peace,  
for they will be called the children of God.

<sup>10</sup> God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right,  
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

<sup>11</sup> "God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. <sup>12</sup> Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

## Teaching about Salt and Light

<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

## 1 John 5:3-4 - New Living Translation

<sup>3</sup> Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome. <sup>4</sup> For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith.



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### SERMON ON THE MOUNT - SESSION 2

## HOW GOOD IS GOOD ENOUGH?

Read Matthew 5:17-48 aloud.

1. What do we learn about the Law in verses 17-19?
2. What do you think Jesus means when he says, "Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven" (v. 20). [Facilitator read Study Notes for information about the "Pharisees."]
3. Where does this righteousness come from (see Romans 3:22-24)?
  - a. How does it feel to know this is possible for you?
4. What is Jesus teaching about the relationship between anger and murder (Matthew 5:21-22)?
  - a. Why do you think Jesus makes this strong connection?
5. Jesus commands us to reconcile our anger quickly. Why do you think quick reconciliation is so important?
6. At what point does adultery occur, according to Matthew 5:28?
  - a. How can you protect yourself from this?
7. Jesus is using hyperbole to illustrate the effects of sin (vv. 29-30). Under the law, sin results in death, and therefore should be dealt with every drastically – not taking it lightly. Give an example of how one might deal drastically with a sin in their life.
8. Why does Jesus teach against swearing oaths in verses 33-37?
  - a. How can we benefit from speaking simply and truthfully?
9. The law regarding retaliation (v. 38) was established to ensure that punishment was just and in proportion to the crime. Jesus calls us to return the evil that others do to us with good. What do you think about this?
  - a. What must we do if we are to embrace this teaching to not resist the evil person?
10. In verses 43-48, Jesus calls us to love even our enemies, since God loved us when we were his enemies. Who are the enemies of the church today? Why is it difficult to love them?
  - a. Verse 44 tells us to pray for those who persecute us. Why is prayer important in dealing with our enemies?
11. In each of the six examples that Jesus gives us in Matthew 5:21-48, he quotes from the Old Testament Law, or a traditional interpretation of the law, and then interprets it based on the heart of God. What do you learn about actions and motives from this passage?
12. Jesus says in verse 48: "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." *Perfect* implies being fully developed morally. How can we be obedient to this command to be perfect?
  - a. According to verses 43-47, what must we do to attain perfection?
  - b. In what ways can loving as Christ describes change our lives?

*"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." – Matthew 5:48*



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### *SERMON ON THE MOUNT - SESSION 2 - SCRIPTURE*

## Matthew 5:17-48 - New Living Translation

### **Teaching about the Law**

<sup>17</sup> "Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. <sup>18</sup> I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. <sup>19</sup> So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God's laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

<sup>20</sup> "But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

### **Teaching about Anger**

<sup>21</sup> "You have heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.'<sup>Ⓜ</sup> <sup>22</sup> But I say, if you are even angry with someone,<sup>Ⓜ</sup> you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot,<sup>Ⓜ</sup> you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone,<sup>Ⓜ</sup> you are in danger of the fires of hell.<sup>Ⓜ</sup>

<sup>23</sup> "So if you are presenting a sacrifice<sup>Ⓜ</sup> at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

<sup>25</sup> "When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly. Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup> And if that happens, you surely won't be free again until you have paid the last penny.<sup>Ⓜ</sup>

## Teaching about Adultery

<sup>27</sup> "You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery.'<sup>u</sup> <sup>28</sup> But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> So if your eye—even your good eye<sup>u</sup>—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your hand—even your stronger hand<sup>u</sup>—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

## Teaching about Divorce

<sup>31</sup> "You have heard the law that says, 'A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.'<sup>u</sup> <sup>32</sup> But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.

## Teaching about Vows

<sup>33</sup> "You have also heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the LORD.'<sup>u</sup> <sup>34</sup> But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, 'By heaven!' because heaven is God's throne. <sup>35</sup> And do not say, 'By the earth!' because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, 'By Jerusalem!' for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup> Do not even say, 'By my head!' for you can't turn one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup> Just say a simple, 'Yes, I will,' or 'No, I won't.' Anything beyond this is from the evil one.

## Teaching about Revenge

<sup>38</sup> "You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury: 'An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.'<sup>u</sup> <sup>39</sup> But I say, do not resist an evil person! If someone slaps you on the right cheek, offer the other cheek also. <sup>40</sup> If you are sued in court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too. <sup>41</sup> If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile,<sup>u</sup> carry it two miles. <sup>42</sup> Give to those who ask, and don't turn away from those who want to borrow.

## Teaching about Love for Enemies

<sup>43</sup> "You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor'<sup>[a]</sup> and hate your enemy. <sup>44</sup> But I say, love your enemies!<sup>[a]</sup> Pray for those who persecute you! <sup>45</sup> In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. <sup>46</sup> If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. <sup>47</sup> If you are kind only to your friends,<sup>[a]</sup> how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. <sup>48</sup> But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

## Romans 3:22-24 - New Living Translation

<sup>22</sup> We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

<sup>23</sup> For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. <sup>24</sup> Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.



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### SERMON ON THE MOUNT - SESSION 3

## AN AUDIENCE OF ONE

Read Matthew 6:1-18 aloud.

1. In this portion of Scripture, Jesus focuses on our “acts of righteousness.” What do we learn about how and why we should give, pray, and fast?
  - a. What does this teach us about who should be honored by our giving, prayer, and fasting?
2. Jesus says: “*Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven*” (v. 1). Why are our “acts of righteousness” before others not rewarded in heaven?
3. What do you think Jesus means when he says “do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing” (v. 3)? How can we obey the spirit of this command?
4. In verse 6, Jesus teaches that we should go behind closed doors to pray to our Father who is unseen. Why do you believe it’s important to pray in secret?
5. Jesus is not necessarily condemning long prayers in verse 7. What do you think he is warning against?
  - a. How can we guard against this in our own prayer life?
6. If our Father knows what we need before we ask him (v. 8), then why is it necessary to pray?
7. Unlike the rambling prayers of the pagans, the Lord’s Prayer is pointed and concise. Look at the petitions given in Jesus’ model prayer in verses 9-13 below:

The orientation	The petition	The application
Oriented to God	Our Father (v. 9)	Who are we talking to? The One who is always near and who cares for our needs
	Hallowed be your name (v. 10)	Prayer should begin in worship of God and his holy name.
	Your kingdom come (v. 10)	We should pray for the advancement of God’s kingdom until Jesus returns.
	Your will be done (v. 10)	We should pray according to his will, for the things we know he wants done.
Oriented to Self	Give us today daily bread (v. 11)	We should pray for the daily provision for our physical needs.
	Forgive us our debts (v. 12)	We should pray for the daily provision for our spiritual needs – grace, forgiveness, etc.
	As we also forgive debtors (v. 12)	We should extend the same grace & mercy to others that we have received from God.
	Lead us not into temptation (v. 13)	We should pray that we may be protected from and strengthened during temptation.

- a. What does this type of thoughtful prayer demonstrate about the attitudes of the person who prays it?
8. Jesus is saying forgiveness is evidence of his saving grace in us when he says: “If you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins” (vv. 14-15). How might our inability to offer forgiveness to others affect our testimony to God’s forgiveness for our own sins?
9. Why do you think Jesus is concerned with our appearance while fasting (vv. 16-18)?
10. The Bible teaches us to fast. Should fasting be a part of worship today? Why do you think so?
11. Jesus’ teachings show us he is focused on the heart motives behind our actions. How can we ensure that we are giving, praying, and fasting with pure motives?

*“Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men,…” – Matthew 6:1*





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### *SERMON ON THE MOUNT - SESSION 3 - SCRIPTURE*

## Matthew 6:1-18 - New Living Translation

### **Teaching about Giving to the Needy**

**6** “Watch out! Don’t do your good deeds publicly, to be admired by others, for you will lose the reward from your Father in heaven. **2** When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get. **3** But when you give to someone in need, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. **4** Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

### **Teaching about Prayer and Fasting**

**5** “When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. **6** But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

**7** “When you pray, don’t babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. **8** Don’t be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! **9** Pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,

may your name be kept holy.

**10** May your Kingdom come soon.

May your will be done on earth,  
as it is in heaven.

**11** Give us today the food we need,<sup>[a]</sup>

**12** and forgive us our sins,  
as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

**13** And don't let us yield to temptation,<sup>[a]</sup>  
but rescue us from the evil one.<sup>[a]</sup>

**14** "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. **15** But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

**16** "And when you fast, don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, for they try to look miserable and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I tell you the truth, that is the only reward they will ever get. **17** But when you fast, comb your hair<sup>[a]</sup> and wash your face. **18** Then no one will notice that you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in private. And your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.



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### SERMON ON THE MOUNT - SESSION 4

## HOW TO THRIVE IN ANY ECONOMY

Read Matthew 6:19-34 aloud.

1. What is Jesus teaching us about the worries of this life through this passage?
2. Describe Jesus' attitude toward material possessions in verses 19-21.
3. Why do you think our attitudes about money and possessions are so important to our spiritual well-being?
  - a. What then should our attitudes be?
4. Give some examples of how to store up "*treasures in heaven*" (v. 20).
5. In verse 21 Jesus said: "*For where you treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" Give some examples of how this truth is evident in our lives.
  - a. What can we do to ensure that our hearts remain properly focused?
6. Jesus says if our eyes are good, our whole body will be full of light, but if our eyes are bad our bodies will be full of darkness (vv. 22-23). What do you think this means?
  - a. How can we keep our eyes "good"?
7. Verse 24 says: "*You cannot serve both God and Money.*" Why isn't it possible to serve both God and money?
8. God has more than enough resources to meet our needs. What kinds of things do we tend to worry about which should be entrusted to God (vv. 25-32)?
  - a. Why is it so difficult to trust God with these things?
9. Jesus accuses those who worry of having little faith (v. 30). How is our anxiety evidence of a lack of faith in God?
  - a. How can living a life influenced by Jesus' financial principles in verses 19-34 help you to live without worry?
10. The antidote to selfishness and worry is to seek God's kingdom first. What does seeking God's kingdom first look like in a typical person's life?
  - a. How is this effective at combating our selfish and worrisome ways?
11. What is the result of seeking God's kingdom first, according to verse 33?
  - a. What are "*all these things*" to which Jesus is referring?

*"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."* Matthew 6:33



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### *SERMON ON THE MOUNT - SESSION 4 - SCRIPTURE*

## Matthew 6:19-34 - New Living Translation

### **Teaching about Money and Possessions**

<sup>19</sup> "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

<sup>22</sup> "Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. <sup>23</sup> But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

<sup>24</sup> "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

<sup>25</sup> "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? <sup>27</sup> Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

<sup>28</sup> "And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, <sup>29</sup> yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. <sup>30</sup> And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

<sup>31</sup> "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' <sup>32</sup> These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your

heavenly Father already knows all your needs. <sup>33</sup> Seek the Kingdom of God<sup>[a]</sup> above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

<sup>34</sup> "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.



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### SERMON ON THE MOUNT - SESSION 5

## A MORE PERFECT YOU

Read Matthew 7:1-12 aloud.

1. What does this passage teach us about how we should treat others?
2. Again, Jesus zeroes in on the motivation or attitude behind our actions. What attitudes does he warn against in verses 1-5?
3. Why do you think Jesus used the term "*plank*" or "*log*" (NASB) to describe our sin (v. 3), yet used "*speck*" to describe the sins of others?
4. What do you think Jesus means when he says, "*Do not give dogs what is sacred*" or "*do not throw your pearls to pigs*" (v. 6)? [*Facilitator read Study Notes for more about dogs and pigs.*]
  - a. Why do you think Jesus issues this warning?
5. Jesus has given many heart issues to address, and now he encourages us to pray about these things. Matthew 7:7 says: "*Keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened*" (NLT). Why is "*keep on*" important?
  - a. What obstacles can hinder us from praying in this way?
6. What reason does verse 11 give for asking God to meet our needs?
7. Why do you think God wants us to ask him for what he already knows we need?
8. Based on Jesus' example of the parent's provision of bread and fish, what are the "*good gifts*" Jesus promises?
9. Verse 12 has become known as "the Golden Rule." It sums up the Law and the Prophets (the whole Old Testament) and therefore simplifies into one statement how to live righteously. How is it possible to live out this "rule" in our day-to-day lives, not only in action but in attitude?

*"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."*

Matthew 7:12



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### *SERMON ON THE MOUNT - SESSION 5 - SCRIPTURE*

## Matthew 7:1-12 - New Living Translation

### **Do Not Judge Others**

**7** "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. **2** For you will be treated as you treat others. <sup>[a]</sup> The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. <sup>[a]</sup>

**3** "And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye <sup>[a]</sup> when you have a log in your own? **4** How can you think of saying to your friend, <sup>[a]</sup> 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? **5** Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.

**6** "Don't waste what is holy on people who are unholy. <sup>[a]</sup> Don't throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.

### **Effective Prayer**

**7** "Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. **8** For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

**9** "You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? **10** Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! **11** So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

### **The Golden Rule**

**12** "Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.



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### SERMON ON THE MOUNT - SESSION 6

## FALSE CONFIDENCE

Read Matthew 7:13-27 aloud.

1. What four warnings does Jesus issue in this passage?
2. What is the broad road according to verse 13 and where does it lead?
  - a. What makes the broad road so inviting?
  - b. Why are so many unwilling to follow the narrow road?
3. Jesus is addressing those who have heard his teachings and now must choose how to live. What do you think causes people to pray a prayer for salvation but then avoid doing the things his sermon says to do?
4. Jesus calls false prophets ferocious wolves in sheep's clothing (v. 15). How can we recognize these disguised wolves (vv. 16-20)?
5. What sets a true disciple apart from a false one, according to verse 21?
6. False disciples can do all sorts of things that look like ministry (v. 22), but Jesus declares them insufficient. What about the false disciples do you think is lacking?
  - a. What does this teach us about our own service to the Lord?
7. What is the solid foundation on which we build (v. 24)?
  - a. How do we build upon it?
  - b. Why is it not enough to just believe Jesus' words – why is it essential that we put them into practice?
8. How does doing what Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount help us to endure life's "storms"?
9. What is one thing from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount that will be especially important for you to practice?
  - a. What help will you need from God and other Christians?

*"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." Matthew 7:21*





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### *SERMON ON THE MOUNT - SESSION 6 - SCRIPTURE*

## Matthew 7:13:27 - New Living Translation

### **The Narrow Gate**

<sup>13</sup> "You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell<sup>Ⓜ</sup> is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. <sup>14</sup> But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

### **The Tree and Its Fruit**

<sup>15</sup> "Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. <sup>16</sup> You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. <sup>19</sup> So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

### **True Disciples**

<sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. <sup>22</sup> On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' <sup>23</sup> But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'

### **Building on a Solid Foundation**

<sup>24</sup> "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. <sup>25</sup> Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. <sup>26</sup> But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. <sup>27</sup> When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."