

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Note: We will spend the next four classes in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5-7). In this class, we will discuss how to read the sermon.

I) Review

- Matthew shows that Jesus is _____ who has come to _____ by _____.
- Jesus is _____ as He is _____.

II) Difficulties with the Sermon

To be honest, I have had difficulty reading the Sermon on the Mount for years. For this reason, I often avoided reading and teaching from what I now see as some of the richest teaching in the Scriptures. My main difficulty derived from applications of the sermon. Consider the following examples:

- In Mt. 5:22, Jesus says to call no person a _____ yet in 23:17, Jesus calls the scribes and Pharisees _____.
- In 5:33, Jesus warns against making _____ yet in Rev. 10:5-6 (among other places), we see an angel making an _____.

Questions to Consider:

1. So if it seems that Jesus doesn't even follow His own teachings, how should we read the sermon?
2. What difficulties have you had in reading and interpreting the sermon?

III) The King & The Torah

To make sense of the Sermon, we must situate it within the larger story of the Scriptures and the flow of Matthew.

The King

3. Considering Deuteronomy 17:14-20, what relationship was the king to have with the Torah (i.e., the law of Moses)?

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4. Within Matthew 1-4, Jesus is presented as the King, the Son of God & Son of David. So then what relationship would you expect Him to have with the Torah?

The Torah (Mt. 5:17-20 & 7:12-14)

5. The Sermon is bookended by 5:17-20 & 7:12-14. What did King Jesus come to do to the Torah?
6. How do we fulfill the Torah (cf. Rom. 13:8)?
7. What does this teach us about the way that Jesus read and interpreted the Torah, especially in contrast to the method of the Pharisees?

IV) Interpreting the Sermon

To me, the key to reading the Sermon is to read it not as RULES but as WISDOM.

Consider the following in this regard:

8. The other Son of David, Solomon, wrote portions of the Scriptures. What form do his writings take?
9. What do the “blessed” statements in Mt. 5 remind you of in the Old Testament?
10. What is the goal of these teachings in our lives (Mt. 5:48)?
11. What do the images and parables of chapter 7 remind you of in the OT?
12. In its essence, the Sermon is Jesus’ interpretation of the Torah. While the Pharisees had misunderstood its purpose, how was it to be read (Deut. 4:6-8)?
13. For further consideration, how do Isa. 32 & 61 contextualize the Sermon?