

=LIFE OF CHRIST=

Lesson 6

The Sermon on the Mount

AIM: to teach my pupils the true meaning of the Sermon on the Mount.

POINT OF CONTACT: Discuss the different mountains in the Bible and what happened on each. For example, Mount Tabor was the Mount of Transfiguration; Mount Moriah was the place where Isaac was offered and where Calvary was located; Jesus prayed on the Mount of Olives; the Ten Commandments were given on Mount Sinai. Mount Pisgah, Mount Nebo, and Mount Hermon are some of the other Bible mountains.

You might discuss with the class various mountains and mountain ranges that they have seen. Then lead into what we call the Sermon on the Mount.

INTRODUCTION: The Sermon on the Mount occupies Matthew 5, 6, and 7. Jesus, the Son of God, is now perfectly filled with the Spirit. He launched into His ministry immediately after His anointing with the Holy Spirit at His baptism. See Matthew 3:16; Luke 3:22; 4:18, 19. Now He pauses to preach the longest recorded sermon of the Bible, the Sermon on the Mount. No study of the life of Christ would be complete without this sermon. Bear in mind that Jesus has been going up and down the countryside and into the synagogues of Galilee preaching that He is the Messiah. He told the people to repent, for the kingdom of Heaven was at hand. He has been gathering followers. Now He must teach these followers how they should live. It must be understood that the Sermon on the Mount is not the way the people should live in order to obtain salvation. It is the way people should live who have already obtained salvation by faith in Christ.

You will notice where it is preached. You will find no better pulpit than a mountain can afford. However, it was not preached on one of the holy mountains, but on a common mountain. It is not Zion, Moriah, Hermon, Sinai, Tabor, or Nebo. Christ has intimated that there are no “holy” places now, but that men are to pray and preach everywhere.

Compare this mountain to the one on which the law was received, Mount Sinai. The grace of God brings us something more than what the law gave us. When the law was given, the Lord came down upon the mountain. Here the Lord goes up on the mountain. When the law was given on Mount Sinai, He spoke in thunder and lightning. Now He speaks in a still, small voice. In Moses’ day the people were ordered to keep their distance. Now they are invited to draw near.

For this lesson we will simply outline the Sermon on the Mount.

- I. THE WAY TO HAPPINESS. In Matthew 5:3-12, we find verses that are commonly called the Beatitudes. Notice each one begins with the word “blessed.” The word “blessed” means “contented,” “happy,” “to be envied,” etc. Starting with verse 3 you will notice the way people can find happiness. We are to be poor in spirit, mourn, be meek, hunger and thirst after righteousness, be merciful, be pure in heart, be peacemakers, be persecuted for righteousness’ sake, etc. These are the ways to happiness, so says our Lord.
- II. HOW TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WE ARE. In Matthew 5:13-16, we are called “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world.” Discuss with the class what salt does: savors, flavors, preserves, irritates, etc. All these things the Christian does in the world, but the main one is to preserve the world. Our very presence keeps the world from rotting.

Discuss here what salt does to meat. Compare it to the Christian.

The Christian is also called “the light of the world.” Bear in mind, in John 8:12, Jesus also says that He is the light of the world. How can this be? Jesus is the Sun of righteousness. Read Malachi 4:2. We are the stars. Notice Daniel 12:3. None of us individually can lighten the whole world, but each of us can do his own part to add light and beauty to the world.

- III. GRACE EXCEEDS THE LAW. In Matthew 5:17-37, you will notice that under grace we are to go farther than under the law. Notice verses 21 and 22 concerning being angry. Notice verses 27 and 28 concerning looking at a woman to lust after her. Verse 20 says that our righteousness should exceed the righteousness of the strict scribes and Pharisees. Through the energy of the Holy Spirit and our yielding to Him, our lives exceed the legalistic lives of those who keep the law.
- IV. THE WAY TO BEHAVE TOWARD FELLOW CHRISTIANS. In Matthew 5:39-48, notice the turning of the other cheek in verse 39, the giving of the cloak in verse 40, the going of the two miles in verse 41, the loving of the enemy in verses 44-47, and the call to complete maturity in verse 48. The word “perfect” means “mature,” “well balanced,” “full grown,” etc.
- V. THE CHRISTIAN AND PUBLIC DISPLAY. In Matthew 6:1-7, we notice that verses 1 through 4 teach us to give secretly, and verses 5 through 7 have to do with praying secretly. Also, look down to verses 16 through 18 which concern fasting and public display.
- VI. WHAT THE CHRISTIAN OUGHT TO PRAY FOR. Read Matthew 6:8-15.
- VII. THE CHRISTIAN’S REGARD TO WEALTH AND MATERIAL THINGS. See Matthew 6:19-34.
- VIII. THE CHRISTIAN’S RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER MEN AND HIS SINCERITY WITH HIMSELF. Notice Matthew 7:1-12, and notice especially the summary in verse 12, which we call the “Golden Rule.”
- IX. A CHRISTIAN AND HIS ASSURANCE OF SALVATION. See Matthew 7:15-27.

CONCLUSION: Teacher, by all means lead the pupils to understand that all of this can be accomplished only by the yielding of the Christian to the Holy Spirit. These are not things we can learn to do; these are things we do when we yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit. Before Jesus ever preached this sermon, He Himself was filled with the Spirit. May God help us to be so filled with the Spirit and to walk in Him that we will know better how to live a Christian life.