

Study Guide for the Sermon on the Mount

In the same way that shorter and longer hikes can be planned from a central position on a map, so too the following study guide provides various “reading paths” in the Bible with the Sermon on the Mount as the starting point. The reader should begin by choosing a passage from the Sermon (together with the discussion of it in this book) and then study the sections of the Bible listed here in days that follow. At the conclusion of this the reader can reconsider the passage which functioned as the starting point. It goes without saying that this roster composed of selected passages around specific themes only intends to offer a variation on book by book Bible study whereby the Scriptures are read in their unity.

1. *Faith is obedience* (Matthew 5:1-2).
 - 1.1 In paradise already: Genesis 2:4-17.
 - 1.2 After the Exodus from Egypt too: Deuteronomy 8.
 - 1.3 It is wisdom: Proverbs 2.
 - 1.4 Prophets point to it: Isaiah 1:10-20.
 - 1.5 Jesus’ high priestly prayer is aimed at it: John 17.
 - 1.6 Grace requires it: Romans 6.
 - 1.7 The last judgment proves it: Matthew 25:14-46.

2. *Happiness* (Matthew 5:3-12).
 - 2.1 Blessed are the poor in spirit: Isaiah 61.
 - 2.2 Blessed are they that mourn: Psalm 90.
 - 2.3 Blessed are the meek: Psalm 37.
 - 2.4 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: Romans 7:7-25.
 - 2.5 Blessed are the merciful: James 2:1-13.
 - 2.6 Blessed are the pure in heart: Mark 7:1-23.
 - 2.7 Blessed are the peacemakers: Romans 14:13—15:13.
 - 2.8 Blessed are they which are persecuted: I Peter 3:13-18; 4:12-19.

3. *Israel* (Matthew 5:13-16)
 - 3.1 Abraham for the nations: Genesis 11:1-9; 12:1-8; 18:16-19.
 - 3.2 Israel for the world: Numbers 14:1-23.
 - 3.3 The nations blessed through Israel: I Kings 10:1-13; Psalm 87.

- 3.4 Tasteless salt: Acts 7:30-53.
- 3.5 Continuous light: Romans 9:1—10:13.
- 3.6 Permanent task: Galatians 4:21—5:15.

4. *The Bible as Building-Program* (Matthew 5:17-20).

- 4.1 A lamp for underway: II Peter 1:12-21.
- 4.2 A word concerning realities: Hebrews 1:1—2:4.
- 4.3 A word in order to educate: II Timothy 3:1-17.
- 4.4 A Bible being fulfilled: Hebrews 12:18-29.
- 4.5 A Bible as example: I Corinthians 10:1-13.
- 4.6 The book of Christ: John 5:19-40.
- 4.7 Christ is the Word of God: Revelation 19:9-16.

5. *Dealing with others* (Matthew 5:21-26).

- 5.1 No fellowship without forgiveness: I John 1:1—2:2.
- 5.2 Service to God begins with our neighbor: I John 2:3-17.
- 5.3 Hating our brother is homicide: I John 3:11-24.
- 5.4 Love comes from God: I John 4:7-21.
- 5.5 Love takes precedence everywhere: Romans 13:8—14:12.
- 5.6 Love remains: I Corinthians 13.

6. *Marriage and faithfulness* (Matthew 5:27-32).

- 6.1 Marriage reflects Christ's love: Ephesians 5:15-33.
- 6.2 Marriage demonstrates Christian love: I Peter 2:19—3:17.
- 6.3 The bond of marriage and family: Matthew 19:1-15.
- 6.4 Contra infidelity: Proverbs 7.
- 6.5 Contra dishonesty: Ephesians 4:17—5:14.
- 6.6 Contra negligence: I Corinthians 7:1-24.
- 6.7 Self-discipline: Hebrews 12:1-17.
- 6.8 Love is tender: Song of Solomon 7:6—8:4.

7. *Honesty* (Matthew 5:33-37).

- 7.1 Speaking the truth requires a bridled tongue: James 3.
- 7.2 Honesty purifies relationships: James 5:12-20.
- 7.3 Love instead of lies: Colossians 3:5-17.
- 7.4 No religion without honesty: Zechariah 7 and 8:9-17.
- 7.5 Lies call forth violence: Proverbs 30:1-14.
- 7.6 Truth nourished by wisdom: Proverbs 4.
- 7.7 Honesty lasts forever: Psalm 15 and 24.

8. *Disarmament* (Matthew 5:38-42).

- 8.1 God's law protects man from his neighbor: Exodus 21:12-36; 23:1-9.
- 8.2 The promised peace of God: Micah 4 and 5.
- 8.3 Suffering as the way of Jesus' church: I Peter 1.
- 8.4 Christ's strength revealed in weakness: II Corinthians 4.
- 8.5 The suffering church supports the struggle for right: Romans 12:12—13:7.
- 8.6 Satan's war against Christ's church: Revelation 12:13—13:10.
- 8.7 The battle for the world has already been won: John 16:16-33.

- 9. *Anti-Discrimination* (Matthew 5:43-48).
 - 9.1 A foreigner is not yet an enemy: Deuteronomy 24:10-22; 28:1-10.
 - 9.2 No loving your neighbor without hating your enemy in the Old Testament: Psalm 18.
 - 9.3 Christ can also pray for those who kill Him: Luke 23:33—24:9.
 - 9.4 God's patient love in this world: Acts 14:8-18; 17:22-34.
 - 9.5 General Christian love: Titus 2:11—3:11.
 - 9.6 Love reconciles social conflicts: Philemon.

- 10. *Personal religion* (Matthew 6:1-18).
 - 10.1 God's majesty makes us humble: Job 38 and 39.
 - 10.2 Knowledge of self leads to repentance: Psalm 51.
 - 10.3 God begins with our personal life: Ezekiel 18.
 - 10.4 Personal prayer is not individualistic: Daniel 9.
 - 10.5 Personal faith begins with our neighbor: James 1:19-27.
 - 10.6 Personal faith comes our in prayer: James 1:1-18.
 - 10.7 Personal faith and fasting: James 4:1-10.
 - 10.8 Personal religion: Revelation 3:14-22.

- 11. *Looking* (Matthew 6:19-24).
 - 11.1 Looking with understanding: Deuteronomy 4:1-20.
 - 11.2 Appearances deceive: Psalm 73.
 - 11.3 Earthly treasures bind: Matthew 19:16-30.
 - 11.4 No one can serve two masters at the same time: Matthew 22:1-14.
 - 11.5 The bad eye: Genesis 39:6-20 and Acts 8:9-24.
 - 11.6 Faith sees what still cannot be seen: Hebrews 11:1-16.

12. *Worrying about tomorrow* (Matthew 6:25-34).
 - 12.1 Caring about the blessing: Genesis 22:1-18.
 - 12.2 The panorama for believers: Isaiah 55.
 - 12.3 The desire of creation: Romans 8:12-30.
 - 12.4 The better body: I Corinthians 15:35-58.
 - 12.5 Seek first the kingdom of God and its righteousness: I Corinthians 6:9-20.
 - 12.6 The future as profit: I Timothy 6:3-19.

13. *Me* (Matthew 7:1-12).
 - 13.1 Shall I avenge myself?: Matthew 18:21-35.
 - 13.2 The law is for me: Romans 2.
 - 13.3 The purpose of the Bible: I Timothy 1:3-20.
 - 13.4 Helping graciously: Galatians 5:13—6:10.
 - 13.5 Judge not lest ye be judged: II Samuel 12:1-14.
 - 13.6 God's wisdom: a jewel for our own use: Proverbs 3.

14. *Deception* (Matthew 7:13-23).
 - 14.1 The true test of our faith: Deuteronomy 13.
 - 14.2 The audacity of a deceitful spirit: I Kings 22:1-28.
 - 14.3 Evil fruits from lying prophecy: Jeremiah 23:1-32.
 - 14.4 The Good Shepherd gathers the scattered people: Ezekiel 34.
 - 14.5 Leaders unmasked: Matthew 23.
 - 14.6 Propagandists for the broad road: II Peter 2.
 - 14.7 The narrow way is safe: I John 2:15—3:8.
 - 14.8 No room in the church for wrong information: Revelation 2:18-29.

15. *The safe house* (Matthew 7:24-27).
 - 15.1 Taking precautions in faith: Genesis 6:9—7:24.
 - 15.2 The future is being forged today: Matthew 24:36—25:13.
 - 15.3 A well thought-out plan for life: Jeremiah 35.
 - 15.4 Perseverance: Hebrews 10:19-39.
 - 15.5 The fire nears: II Peter 3.
 - 15.6 Jesus confirms the conclusion to the Sermon on the Mount at the end of the Bible: Revelation 22:6-21.

Suggested further reading:

A classic example of exegetical sermons about the Sermon on the Mount is D.M. Lloyd-Jones *Studies in the Ser-*

mon on the Mount (1959 - 1960) Grand Rapids, 1981.

A more recent work is D.A. Carson's *The Sermon on the Mount*, Grand Rapids, 1984 (Second Edition).