

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT



CROSSROADS
PRISON MINISTRIES

ANSWER KEY

Cover artwork by Harvey L., former Crossroads student

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

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LESSON 1–The Beatitudes

1. Check Required
2. HARMONY PRINCIPLES
3. a. A blessed person delights in the Law of the Lord.
b. They will not stand in the judgment, nor in the assembly of the righteous. Their future holds destruction.
4. TOTALLY DEPENDENT SIN CORRUPTION HELP
5. a. We are to be clothed with humility.
b. OPPOSES FAVOR (or GRACE)
6. Isaiah saw the awesome majesty, glory, authority, and holiness of God who was worshiped by the angels. In contrast to this, Isaiah realized his own sinful condition and his need for total dependence upon this Holy God.
7. AMBITION CONCEIT HUMILITY OTHERS CHRIST JESUS
8. The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against our sin.
9. PLEASED (or PLEASURE) WICKEDNESS (or EVIL) EVIL (or WICKED)
STAND HATE DESTROY DETEST (or ABHORS)
10. Christians mourn over their sin and poverty of spirit, as well as the sin they see all around them.
11. a. We must humble ourselves, pray, seek God’s face, and turn from our wicked ways.
b. Then God will hear, will forgive our sins, and heal our land.
12. A student should respond with at least some of the following: Isaiah realized his sinful condition—so much so that as a prophet he pronounced an oracle of woe upon himself! Furthermore, he clearly identified not only his own sin, but also the sin of the world around him. In the midst of this awesome recognition of his sin and the sinful world, we cannot help but think that as the angel approached Isaiah, he was expecting death. However, God in marvelous grace granted Isaiah atonement for his sin and the cleansing he was so in need of. Not only that, Isaiah was prepared for, and responded to, a call for service.
13. We generally think of meek people as weak, soft-spoken people, maybe even with low self-esteem and other social and emotional problems. In contrast to this, we see that a meek person is actually one with great power and abilities in both mind and body, but these qualities are submitted to God and harnessed under His control. It takes strength to be submissive, gentle, and patient when our inclinations are just the opposite.
14. Students should respond with at least some of the following:
 - He did not retaliate when they hurled insults at Him.
 - He made no threats even though He was in great pain and had the power to destroy His accusers; instead He entrusted Himself to God, the Just Judge.
 - Christ submitted Himself and allowed the soldiers to strip Him of His clothes.
 - They mocked His authority as King, placing a staff in His hand and kneeling before Him.
 - Christ was crowned with thorns.

- The soldiers mocked and beat Christ.
 - Jesus allowed the soldiers to nail Him to the cross with criminals even though He had done nothing wrong.
 - He refused wine and gall to deaden His pain.
 - Christ could have come down off of the cross but instead He chose the way of submission to His Father's will.
15. a. The Kingdom of God and His righteousness.
- b. Food, drink, clothing, and everything else we need.
16. DESIRE ALL SIN HOLY
17. Check Required
18. ACTION
19. B
20. That He is gracious and merciful.
21. Christians are able to show mercy because the Spirit of Christ lives in the hearts of Christians. Christians can show mercy through actions, which include peace, love and selflessness, as well as by offering materials to those in need.
22. SINGLE UNMIXED CLEANSED
23. Their walk is blameless; they do what is righteous. They have no slander on their tongue and cast no slur on others. They despise vile people but honor those who fear the Lord; they keep oaths even when it hurts. They lend money without charging interest; they don't accept bribes. They have clean hands and a pure heart, and do not lift up their souls to an idol or swear by what is false. All this is to say that in order to see God and live in His presence, we must have a pure heart.
24. Holiness, for without this we will not see God.
25. We will see His face.
26. a. Prince of Peace.
- b. PEACE END
27. Students should respond with at least **three** of the following:
- Do not repay evil for evil.
 - Do what is right as we live our lives before the world.
 - Take the lead in living at peace with everyone.
 - Do not take revenge; leave that to God.
 - Overcome evil with good.
 - Care for your enemy.
28. PEACEMAKERS PEACE
29. a. The Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.
- b. Praise God that you bear that name.
30. He committed no sin and no deceit was found in His mouth. When they hurled insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly.

31. We must be prepared to give open testimony to Christ and His sacrifice for us, and even be willing to die for that testimony.
32.
 - a. The student should include in the response some reference to obeying the Ten Commandments as well as to loving God and our neighbor.
 - b. Rather than separate completely from the world, Jesus prays here that we might:
 - Not be taken out of the world.
 - Be protected from the Evil One while we are in the world.
 - Be made more and more holy (sanctified) as we live in the world.
33. Here students will come up with a variety of answers. Be alert to ways that you can encourage them. This may also provide you with some insight into what is happening in their lives. Be sensitive to how you can best minister to them in their present situation.
34. Encourage the student to read through the Sermon on the Mount in one sitting. The student will be asked to do this at the end of each lesson.

LESSON 2—The Christian’s Relationship to the Old Testament

1. UNDER LAW REDEEM LAW
 2. a. *“You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”*
b. *“This is my Son whom I love, with him I am well pleased.”*
 3. a. Check Required
b. LAW PROPHEETS PSALMS
 4. RIGHTEOUSNESS ESTABLISH OWN
 5. a. In our mind or heart.
b. Students may have various ways of answering this question, but the basic idea is that among God’s people the Law of God has become a living instrument that is used and shared by all.
 6. a. We are to follow the law of love—love your neighbor as yourself.
b. SPIRIT UNDER LAW
c. SPIRIT SPIRIT
 7. Hopefully the student will respond with Yes! Why? Because it is the very Law of God that is written upon our hearts by the Holy Spirit.
 8. a. In our anger, we must not sin; we must not let the sun go down while we are still angry.
b. Unresolved anger gives the devil a foothold into a person’s life.
c. We are to get rid of bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, as well as malice—all of the emotions behind murder.
d. Because God has forgiven us if we are in Christ.
 9. OBEY SACRIFICE
 10. CHERISHED HEART
 11. Live in peace with all people, and to be holy.
 12. We are to hate evil.
 13. Check Required
- Check required between questions 13 and 14.
14. They are no longer two but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.
 15. Check Required
 16. WE WILL SERVE LORD
 17. a. God the Father
b. Jesus Christ
c. The Apostle Paul
 18. Do not swear—by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no.

19. FALSEHOOD TRUTHFULLY
20. Students' answers will vary here; often the slang term "pay-backs" may be used to explain the Law of Retaliation.
21. Peter and John were preaching and teaching the Gospel; they were about the business of advancing the Kingdom of God. In this case they had a "higher" duty to obey God Himself rather than God's appointed leaders.
22. Simon, a man from Cyrene was forced to carry Jesus' cross.
23. a. GOOD HATE
b. BLESS CURSE
c. PRAY
24. a. If your enemy's animal runs off and you find it, return it to them. If you see your enemy having a hard time carrying things, help them.
b. Don't seek revenge against someone who has done wrong to you. Treat people of other races and nations as one of your own kind—even to the point of loving them as you love yourself.
c. Don't be happy over your enemy's troubles or pay them back for the evil they have done to you.
25. God will mete out justice on the unrepentant sinner. There will be God's wrath and anger for those who follow evil.
26. To "be perfect" means that we are to live a life that is in complete harmony with the will of God as revealed in the Bible, especially by Jesus' example. No one can ever be perfect because we are all sinful, completely affected by sin in every way, unable to please God on our own. Christ's perfection has been credited to us. Therefore, when God looks on us, He sees Christ's perfect obedience. Christ's perfection has made us perfect in God's eyes.
27. GOD'S EXAMPLE (or IMITATORS GOD) LOVE CHRIST LOVED
28. Encourage the student to read through the Sermon in one sitting. The student will be asked to do this at the end of each lesson.

LESSON 3—Our Acts of Worship

1. As Christians live their lives in this world, the goal is that others will see God and praise Him.
2. Jesus tells us that true worshipers will worship God in spirit and in truth.
3. This verse is teaching us that when we are kind and compassionate to the poor, demonstrated through our giving or some other means (see Proverbs 22:9; 28:8; 31:9), God views it as a gift to Himself. The Lord rewards our charitable efforts. It is not stated here what the reward will be. We cannot draw from this text that it is teaching that we will get our money back! While we do not know what the reward will be, we can have confidence that God will reward us. God's rewards can take many forms, both physical and spiritual. Encourage your student to look at all the ways God might reward charity. You might refer your students to other texts such as Proverbs 14:21 and Matthew 19:27-28; 25:31-44.
4.
 - a. They gave themselves first to the Lord, that is, they devoted themselves to God. It follows, then, that everything the Macedonian believers had they really viewed as the Lord's.
 - b. Considering all the activities Paul did engage in on his missionary journeys, it is striking that he gave such time and importance to these collections/offerings. We see that giving to the needy is very important to Paul—especially because this kind of giving is important to God. Furthermore, we know that the unity of the church, bringing the Jew and Gentile together in Christian fellowship, was a very important matter to Paul. The famine in Palestine that caused great economic hardship for the Palestinian Christians at this time was an opportunity for Gentile Christians to show their love for their Jewish brothers.
5.
 - a. Jesus went to quiet, lonely places of solitude, often on a mountainside.
 - b. Encourage your student to find a place of privacy for daily prayer. For some students, this may be very difficult. In that case, finding a place for private prayer should be a priority prayer request! Crossroads students that are in prison often find their private prayer place while walking in the yard, psychologically shutting distractions out as they focus on their Father in heaven. Others have benefited by "praying" the Psalms. Possibly you can share how regular, private prayer has helped you.
6. Jesus prayed, *"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."* (Matthew 26:39). *"Cup"* here refers to the outpouring of God's wrath (see Psalm 75:8, Isaiah 51:17,22, Jeremiah 25:15-16). Jesus prayed this prayer three times. Jesus prayed this prayer three times because He was in excruciating anguish over facing death, knowing that God would not be with Him, but against Him in judgment and wrath. Even in this anguish, our Lord repeats, *"Yet not as I will, but as you will."*
7.
 - a. The people prayed to the Canaanite god Baal (and probably his "spouse" Asherah). The people simply prayed, *"O Baal, answer us!"* They were asking Baal to send down fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice on the altar. They did this from morning (verse 26) until the time for the evening sacrifice—3:00 P.M. (verse 29).
 - b. Elijah prays a simple yet powerful prayer (verse 36). His prayer has these parts:

- It begins with a statement of historical and covenantal fact—the Lord is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of the nation Israel.
- It contains a statement of who Elijah was—a servant of God who does His will.
- Its focus is on the glory of God before the people, both in the event at the altar and the resultant repentance of the people.

Elijah's prayer has God-ordained results—without having to coerce God in any way.

8. Jesus went off to quiet places by Himself to pray. He did this often, and many times He did this all night. We see here that for Jesus time alone with His Father was very important and necessary.
9.
 - a. At the time of Christ's death, the curtain in the temple was torn in half from top to bottom.
 - b. The curtain symbolized the wall that separated God and humanity because of our sin and God's holiness. Jesus broke down that wall, bridging the separation by His death. We are now free to approach the Father directly; no priest is necessary to do that for us. Jesus, the Great High Priest, has made the ultimate sacrifice for us, thereby giving us free access to God in prayer.
10.
 - a. Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.
 - b. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we possess.
 - c. Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.
 - d. Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing.
 - e. Let us encourage one another.
11. The name LORD reveals that God is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. He is also a just God, punishing the guilty and their offspring.
12. GLORY ON EARTH FINISHING (or COMPLETING) WORK
13. B
14.
 - a. Jesus came to do the will of the One who sent Him, namely, God the Father.
 - b. God's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life and be raised up by Jesus Christ on the last day. This is to say that God's will for all who believe is that they have a deep abiding fellowship with Him that will result in resurrection unto glorification.
15. CONFESS SINS FAITHFUL JUST FORGIVE PURIFY
16. The parable teaches us that those who know God's forgiveness and mercy must themselves operate their lives on the same standard of forgiveness and mercy. If we have an unforgiving heart it is possibly evidence that we ourselves have not received forgiveness from God. A forgiving heart is a sign that we ourselves have new life.
17.
 - a. The devil is described as a prowling and roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
 - b. We are to resist him, being self-controlled and alert. We are also to stand firm in the faith with the rest of those who have suffered for Christ, submit to authority, humble ourselves before God, and cast all our cares upon Him.

18. It seems that putting on the entire “armor of God” is undergirded with prayer. We are to pray under the power and guidance of the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. We are also to pray for our Christian brothers and sisters.
19.
 - a. They demanded to know why Jesus’ disciples did not fast.
 - b. Jesus answers the charge with an illustration from a wedding celebration: Jesus is seen as the “bridegroom” and His disciples as the wedding party (“guests”). It would be ridiculous to fast at a wedding party; it would be just as ridiculous to fast while Jesus was here in physical form on earth. However, Jesus recognizes a time when they will fast—the time between His ascension and second coming. This means that we are living in an era where fasting should be a part of our discipleship.
20.
 - a. They were worshiping the Lord and fasting.
 - b. They appointed elders through prayer and fasting and then committed them to the Lord.
21. Student’s answers here will vary according to how the Lord has been speaking and dealing with them. Be encouraging.
22. Encourage your student to read through the Sermon on the Mount in one sitting.

LESSON 4—Staying on Track

1. a. Achan’s sin was that he took articles from the city of Jericho, articles that had been devoted to the Lord (Joshua 7:1). Achan himself describes this in detail in Joshua 7:20-21:
“It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”
The result of his sin was this:
 - 38 men died in the attack on Ai (7:5).
 - God and all Israel were shamed before their enemies (7:8-9).
 - All Israel was called before God to be prosecuted for breaking their covenant with the Lord (7:10-18).
 - Achan and his family were stoned to death (7:25).
 - The bodies and all of Achan’s possessions were burned, along with that which Achan stole (7:25).
 - b. Solomon loved and intermarried with 700 wives and 300 concubines, women that God had specifically told him would turn his heart away from God (11:1-3). As a result of this sin, Solomon’s heart did turn away from God; he did not follow God wholeheartedly. Solomon turned both himself and the nation of Israel to syncretism—he worshiped other gods along with the worship of the Lord. This sin led God to declare, *“I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates.”*
 - c. Ananias and Sapphira sold a piece of property and donated the proceeds to the church. They did, however, keep some of the money for themselves, while they made it appear that they had given it all to the church—Ananias and Sapphira lied about their charitable gift, and they died as a result.
2. LOVE OF MONEY EVIL
 3. GET RICH TRUST (or WISDOM) CLEVERNESS (or RESTRAINT)
 - RICHES GONE
4. a. Jesus warns us to be on guard against all kinds of greed and living for possessions.
 - b. The parable is about a man who gives himself to money and possessions. God calls him a “fool” because none of his possessions will follow him to the grave or help him in the afterlife. The consequences of greed are an ultimately useless life on earth that results in an implied eternal separation from God.
5. a. The law of the Lord is more precious than gold—His statutes, precepts, commands, and ordinances.
 - b. There is great reward for the servant of God who keeps God’s Law.
6. Check Required
 7. We are not to be anxious about anything. We are to present our requests before God through prayer and petition that includes thanksgiving.
 8. Students’ answers to this question will vary, possibly providing insight into the burdens they carry. Respond lovingly and appropriately. The burden Jesus is referring to here is the burden of legalism that the scribes and Pharisees placed on the people. Not only was this burden heavy because of its stringent com-

mands, but it was ultimately useless – nothing but human religion void of divine reward (see Matthew 23:1-4). Even though Jesus’ demands are even greater (Matthew 5:20), He beckons us to come under His yoke – that is, under His control as one of His disciples. In contrast to the “hard labor” of legalism, Jesus invites us to come and learn from Him. He is a gentle and humble Master. Under His yoke we will find a relationship where we are encouraged, loved and empowered. (Note: Your student will study Matthew 7:13-27 in the next lesson – there we will see a more “stern” side of Jesus. This is a good time to emphasize the tenderness and gentleness of Jesus that all of His disciples will experience as they follow Him.)

9. The confidence we gain is this: If we are people who love God and delight in doing His will, all things, whether good or bad, are working under His plan for our good. God’s plan for us is an outworking of His love, election, and calling. His plan results in our conforming to Christ and our eventual glorification. There is no room for worry here!
10. This verse gives us confidence in a very worrisome environment – defending ourselves and the Gospel before authorities. We are promised that the Holy Spirit will be there with us and for us, teaching us what to say. By implication we can say that the Holy Spirit will be with us in all our anxious times.
11. Students will have various answers here. Commonly they will write such things as prayer, Bible reading, Bible study (doing Crossroads lessons!), and church attendance. Encourage your student and possibly suggest other ways they can develop a closer relationship to God: singing, Bible memory, Bible meditation, or fellowship.
12. God says He will accuse and rebuke us.
13. a. DO NOT SLANDER
b. James gives this command because:
 - To slander someone breaks the law of love.
 - Slander is speaking evil against someone – it is motivated by envy and comes from the devil.
 - The slanderer sets themselves against and above the Law of God.
 - The slanderer sets themselves against God, the One and Only Judge and Lawgiver.
14. a. Warn the divisive person up to two times, then have nothing to do with them.
b. If a person or group will not value the gifts and words of the Kingdom of God, we are to leave them – at the loss of our presence and, more importantly, at the loss of the presence of Jesus whom we represent. To “shake the dust off your feet” was a symbolic way of showing that the home or town involved was pagan, polluted and under God’s judgment.
15. Paul regularly announced the gospel first to the Jews in any place he endeavored to minister (see Acts 13:5; 14:1; 17:1,10,17; 18:4,15; 19:8). If the Jews rejected the Gospel, Paul removed himself and went to the Gentiles in that place.
16. Here again students will answer in various ways. Be alert to ways you can encourage, help, and pray for your student.
17. Encourage your student to be reading through the Sermon on the Mount in one sitting.

LESSON 5—Committing to the Kingdom

1. God will bestow the gift of the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.
2. PLANS YOU LORD PROSPER HARM
HOPE FUTURE
3. a. James is speaking about people who profess to be Christians yet they are filled with envy that demonstrates itself in fighting and quarrelling. Furthermore these people are selfish pleasure seekers.
b. James describes two aspects of their prayer life:
 - They rarely ask God for things in prayer.
 - When they do ask, it is with wrong (selfish) motives.
4. Love
5. a. We are to love one another.
b. Love your neighbor as yourself.
c. LOVE LAW
6. Check Required
7. Students' answers will vary here. We are looking for their own expression of love both for God and for others.
8. a. There is the way of life and prosperity, or of death and destruction.
b. ...to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commands, decrees and laws...
c. ...then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you...
d. The disobedient will live a life under the curse of God that will lead to destruction.
9. We must go through many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God.
10. Jesus answered, *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*
11. Jesus is the Last Prophet in the fullest sense of the word. He is also the Greatest Prophet because:
 - He came to fulfill, carry out and complete all that the Law and Prophets spoke about.
 - The office of apostle and prophet is built upon Him. It is He who joins the entire Church together.
 - Jesus' revelation is superior to all of the other prophets because He is an exact, authentic representation of God—He is God!
12. a. Paul is speaking to the elders of the church in Ephesus.
b. Paul calls them overseers and shepherds of the Church of God.
c. Paul refers to the Church as a flock of sheep.
d. Paul warns that savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. These "wolves" are false teachers who will distort the truth and draw many away.
13. John tells us that one way to test a teacher is to see if they believe that Jesus Christ is both fully human and fully divine. Your students may find different and interesting language for this doctrine. Give gentle help and extra instruction if necessary.

14. Check Required

We make progress in the Christian faith by...

- Building ourselves up in the faith—knowing and holding on to the pure message of the gospel with all its implications for our lives.
- Praying in the Holy Spirit—praying according to the prompting and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and through His power.
- Keeping ourselves in God’s love—obeying God’s commands out of love for Him (see John 15:10).
- Waiting for and focusing on the mercy that will be shown us on the Last Day.
- Dealing mercifully, straightforwardly, and patiently with those who have been succumbing to false teaching.

15. WELL DONE GOOD FAITHFUL

16. LAWLESSNESS

17. The Psalmist is passionate about the Law of God. He knows that fully obeying God’s Law is the only way of blessing and life. To the Law he entrusts his entire life and gives all his energy. He is consumed with the Law of God; it is his delight and counsel.

18. a. We can be sure that we know God if we obey His commands.
b. People like this are liars; the truth is not in them.
c. We can be sure that we know Christ if we are daily living a life characterized by obedience to Him.

19. a. F
b. F
c. T

20. These passages are referring to Jesus Christ.

21. We can be sure we are building on the foundation of Jesus Christ when we are consistently hearing and practicing the words of Jesus, that is, doing the will of God.

22. a. The demons hear the Word of God, but they do not do it.
b. WHAT IT SAYS
c. The person that listens to and does the Word of God will be blessed in what they do.

23. Students will vary in what they express here. Be encouraging to them. Also encourage your student for finishing this course!

24. No mentor comment necessary.



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