

## Lessons 12 & 13—Getting the Big Picture

### Introduction

Before you can fully grasp the details of a map, it helps to step back and see the full terrain. The same is true with the Sermon on the Mount. Whether you're beginning this study or completing it, this lesson is designed to help you get your bearings—to understand the overall shape, structure, and purpose of Jesus' most famous teaching.

The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7) isn't just a collection of wise sayings or moral rules. It's a unified call to a radically different way of life—a life defined by the **kingdom of heaven** and shaped by the **will of the Father**.

In these lessons, we'll trace:

- The major themes and repeated ideas throughout the sermon
- How each section builds on the next
- What Jesus emphasizes most—and how He expects His disciples to respond

If you're starting here, this lesson gives you a wide-angle lens—so every later passage will make more sense in context.

If you're ending here, this lesson helps you reflect on what you've studied—so you can better remember it, live it, and teach it to others.

Wherever you are in the journey, this is your chance to see **the big picture**—and discover why this sermon still transforms lives today.

### I. Observation

A. Read Matthew 5:3-12

1. What is the theme of this section?

2. Complete the following chart:

Scripture	Righteous Quality	Blessing
Matthew 5:3		
Matthew 5:4		
Matthew 5:5		

Scripture	Righteous Quality	Blessing
Matthew 5:6		
Matthew 5:7		
Matthew 5:8		
Matthew 5:9		
Matthew 5:10		
Matthew 5:11-12		

B. Matthew 5:13-16

1. What is the theme of this section?
2. What illustrations does Jesus use:
  - a.
  - b.
3. What words or phrases are used in this section that have been used in previous sections of this sermon (Matthew 5:3-12)?
4. How does this theme relate to the one before it (Matthew 5:3-12)?

C. Matthew 5:17-20

1. What is the theme of this section?
2. What does Jesus say about righteousness?
3. What words or phrases are used in this section that have been used in previous sections of this sermon (Matthew 5:3-16)?

D. Matthew 5:21-26

1. What is the theme of this section?
2. What contrasts/comparisons does Jesus make?

E. Matthew 5:27-30

1. What is the theme of this section?
2. What contrasts/comparisons does Jesus make?

F. Matthew 5:31-32

1. What is the theme of this section?
2. What contrasts/comparisons does Jesus make?

G. Matthew 5:33-37

1. What is the theme of this section?
2. What contrasts/comparisons does Jesus make?
3. What words or phrases are used in this section that have been used in previous sections of this sermon?

H. Matthew 5:38-42

1. What is the theme of this section?
2. What contrasts/comparisons does Jesus make?

I. Matthew 5:43-48

1. What is the theme of this section?
2. What contrasts/comparisons does Jesus make?
3. What words or phrases are used in this section that have been used in previous sections of this sermon?

J. Considering Matthew 5:21-48

1. Complete chart of the contrasts Jesus presents in this section:

Scripture	You have heard	I say to you
Matthew 5:21-26		
Matthew 5:27-30		
Matthew 5:31-32		

Scripture	You have heard	I say to you
<b>Matthew 5:33-37</b>		
<b>Matthew 5:38-42</b>		
<b>Matthew 5:43-48</b>		

2. Is Jesus contradicting Old Testament Scriptures? If not what is He doing?
3. How does this section relation to the ones before it (cf. Matthew 5:17-20)?

#### K. Matthew 6:1-4

1. Textual note: Nearly every translation except the KJV and NKJV has either “righteousness” or “piety” instead of “charitable.” The slight difference is due to a manuscript discrepancy. It should most likely read: “Beware of practicing your righteousness. . .”
2. What is the theme of this section?
3. What contrasts/comparisons does Jesus make?
4. What words or phrases are used in this section that have been used in previous sections of this sermon?

#### L. Matthew 6:5-15

1. What is the theme of this section?
2. What contrasts/comparisons does Jesus make?
3. What words or phrases are used in this section that have been used in previous sections of this sermon?

#### M. Matthew 6:16-18

1. What is the theme of this section?
2. What contrasts/comparisons does Jesus make?
3. What words or phrases are used in this section that have been used in previous sections of this sermon?

#### N. Matthew 6:19-33

1. What is the theme of this section?
2. What contrasts/comparisons does Jesus make?
3. What words or phrases are used in this section that have been used in previous sections of this sermon?

O. Considering Matthew 6:1-33

1. Complete the follow chart:

Scripture	Righteousness before men	Righteousness before God
<b>Matthew 6:1-4</b>		
<b>Matthew 6:5-15</b>		
<b>Matthew 6:6-18</b>		
<b>Matthew 6:19-33</b>		

2. How does this section relate to the ones before it (cf. Matthew 5:20, 6:1, 33)

P. Matthew 7:1-6

1. What is the theme of this section?
2. What falsehood does Jesus warn against?

Q. Matthew 7:7-14

1. What is the theme of this section?
2. What falsehoods does Jesus warn against?
3. What contrast does Jesus present to the section before it (Matthew 7:1-6)?
4. What words or phrases are used in this section that have been used in previous sections of this sermon?

R. Matthew 7:15-20

1. What is the theme of this section?

2. What falsehoods does Jesus warn against?

S. Matthew 7:21-23

1. What is the theme of this section?

2. What falsehoods does Jesus warn against?

3. What words or phrases are used in this section that have been used in previous sections of this sermon?

T. Considering Matthew 7:1-23

1. How does this section relate to the ones before?

U. Matthew 7:24-27

1. What is the theme of this section?

2. What does Jesus place importance upon as He closes His lesson?

V. Matthew 7:28-29

1. What is the theme of this section?

2. What result did hearing this lesson have among the listeners?

## **II. Interpretation**

A. Based on your observations about the themes and key words repeated throughout the sermon, what would you say is the overall theme or point of the sermon?

B. What does Jesus have to say about righteousness in this lesson?

C. What requirements does Jesus give for entering into the Kingdom of Heaven?

### III. Application

- A. What subjects did Jesus talk about that you struggle with the most?
- B. List at least five facts or commands from the Sermon on the Mount that are relevant to your own life:
- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
- C. Plan: Circle the one principle above you will seek to apply this week. Now create a plan to apply this principle by answering these two questions:
1. What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.
  2. Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?

### IV. Teach It

- A. Finally, Jesus' commission to His disciples is to **teach others** to observe all that He commanded (Matthew 28:19–20). The Sermon on the Mount is not just personal—it's meant to be shared.
- B. As you engage with Jesus' words, think about how you can help others walk in them, too. Ask yourself:
1. How would I explain this to my children or family?
  2. How would I teach this to a fellow believer?
  3. How can I model these truths consistently in my daily life?

- C. Suggested Practice: Whether you're just beginning or wrapping up this study, pick one section of the Sermon on the Mount and teach or discuss it with someone else—a family devotional, small group, one-on-one study, or even a casual conversation. Teaching what you've learned will deepen your own understanding and help others grow in Christ.

## Conclusion

The Sermon on the Mount is not a checklist of good behaviors or a poetic ideal for the super-religious. It is a radical call to real righteousness—one that begins in the heart, transforms our priorities, and flows into every relationship and decision.

Jesus shows us that true discipleship is not about outward performance, but inward transformation. It's not about being seen by others, but being known by the Father.

He calls us to live as people of the kingdom:

- Poor in spirit, but rich in grace
- Merciful and meek, but bold in truth
- Anchored not in appearances, but in obedience

The crowds were astonished at His teaching—because it had authority (Matt. 7:28–29). That same authority calls to us today. Will we simply admire Jesus' words, or will we **build our lives on them**?

Let's walk the narrow path. Let's bear good fruit. Let's do the will of the Father. And when the rain falls and the floods rise—we'll stand. Not because we're perfect, but because we listened to the King—and did what He said.