



Week Five

Message of the Kingdom (Pt. 1)

Matthew 5 - 6:18

Read and Summarize

Read chapters 5 and 6:1-18. Provide a brief summary in one to two sentences for each chapter, using your own words to capture the main events.

Matthew 5

Matthew 6:1-18

Clarifying the Context

1. In Matthew 5:1-2, who is identified as Jesus' primary audience for the Sermon on the Mount? How should that shape the way that we understand this discourse?

Digging into the Details

Matthew 5

2. Look at the beatitudes in verses 3-12. These eight marks of Christian character stand in opposition to the ways of the world. List out the beatitudes on the left and the opposite heart postures, or “world-itudes” on the right. The first is done for you as an example.

Beatitudes

World-itudes

1. <i>Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</i>	1. <i>Happy are the entitled, for theirs is the material world.</i>
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____
6. _____	6. _____
7. _____	7. _____
8. _____	8. _____

Use these lists to examine your character. Ask the Lord to grow you in the areas where your heart does not reflect His Kingdom and His ways.

3. Look at verses 13-16.

a. What two metaphors does Jesus use to describe how His followers should impact the world?

b. What is the purpose of each metaphor?

4. In verse 17, if “the Law” refers to the first five books of the Bible and “the Prophets” refers to the rest of the Old Testament, what do you think Jesus means when He says He came to fulfill them?

5. Read Matthew 23:25-28.

a. Based on this description of the scribes and Pharisees, what do you think Jesus means in Matthew 5:20?

- b.** How is that kind of righteousness possible? (See Deuteronomy 30:6, 2 Corinthians 5:21)

6. In verses 21-48, Jesus corrects misinterpretations and draws out the true meaning of many Old Testament moral laws by exposing the deeper issues. In each category below, how does Jesus interpret the law, and how should that shape our understanding of what righteous living looks like?

- a.** Murder (verses 21-26)

- b.** Adultery (verses 27-30)

- c.** Divorce (verses 31-32)

- d.** Oaths (verses 33-37)

- e.** Retaliation (verses 38-42)

f. Enemies (verses 43-48)

Matthew 6

- 7.** Look at Matthew 6:1. What area of life is Jesus now addressing with His disciples?
- 8.** In verses 2-18, what three practices does Jesus assume His followers are already doing? List them below. Then compare the outward hypocritical behaviors with Jesus' description of true inner devotion for each practice.

Practices	Outward Hypocritical Behaviors	Characteristics of True Inner Devotion
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1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

- a.** Reflect on these practices. Are you currently not doing any of them?

b. What do you think may be preventing you from doing them?

c. Are there any areas in your life where you may be doing the right things, but for the wrong reasons? Bring these before our merciful Lord and ask Him to help you.

9. Go back and read over the Lord's prayer in verses 9-13.

a. What do you notice about the structure, emphasis, and tone of this prayer?

b. Write down any parts that stand out to you or are unclear.

10. Using the Lord's Prayer as an example, spend some time in prayer with our good Father.

- 11.** The Sermon on the Mount is intended to instruct us on how we, as believers, can flourish as we live holy, set-apart lives that reflect the Kingdom to which we belong. Jesus sets a high standard for His people, but the call He gives us is always intended to be interpreted with the Cross in view.
- a.** Before giving us any of Christ's instructions, how does Matthew introduce Jesus in Matthew 1:21?

 - b.** How does remembering what Christ accomplished on the Cross help you to come away from this part of the discourse with encouragement rather than defeat or an attempt to achieve God's favor?

Attribute of God & Application

- What did this week's study reveal to you about King Jesus and His Kingdom?

- How do these chapters encourage or challenge you in your life currently?

**Spend some time praising God for who He is and for what He has done.
Ask Him to help you as you seek to live in light of His Word this week.**

