



Part 1

An Introduction to Christ's Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 4:23

Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom.

And he healed every kind of disease and illness.

Matthew 4:24a

**News about him spread as far as
Syria, and people soon began
bringing to him all who were sick.**

Matthew 4:24b

And whatever their sickness or disease, or if they were demon possessed or epileptic or paralyzed—he healed them all.

Matthew 4:25

Large crowds followed him wherever he went—people from Galilee, the Ten Towns, Jerusalem, from all over Judea, and from east of the Jordan River.

Matthew 5:1

One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him,

Matthew 5:2

and he began to teach them.



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Principle #1

There were usually at least three primary groups of people around Jesus in his earthly ministry: His disciples, the crowds, and the religious leaders.

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The Three Groups

- **Followers**
- **Neutral Observers or Fans**
- **Opponents**

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There were usually at least three primary groups of people around Jesus in his earthly ministry: His disciples, the crowds, and the religious leaders.

Principle #2

**Christ's five Sermons/Discourses
in the Gospel of Matthew are often
affectionately known as
"Jesus' Manual on Discipleship".**

The Five Discourses

- **Discourse 1 – Chapters 5–7**
- **Discourse 2 – Chapter 10**
- **Discourse 3 – Chapter 13**
- **Discourse 4 – Chapter 18**
- **Discourse 5 – Chapters 24–25**

The Five Discourses

There is a progression of teaching in these discourses that addresses the fullness of the disciple's life.

The Five Discourses

- **Radical Kingdom-life disciples**
- **Mission-driven disciples**
- **Hidden-kingdom disciples**
- **Community-based disciples**
- **Expectant-sojourner disciples**

Principle #2

Christ's five Sermons/Discourses in the Gospel of Matthew are often affectionately known as "Jesus' Manual on Discipleship".

Principle #3

The Sermon on the Mount is Christ's revelation of the ideal, already available, model of the exemplary Christian life for those who live in the already-not yet kingdom of God, here on earth.

Different Views

- **Utopian ideal ethic—teachings are impossible, unrealistic demands in this age**
- **Millennial ethic—teachings apply to the future kingdom of Revelation 20**
- **Spiritually elite ethic—teachings are only for the truly spiritually elite**

Different Views

- **Eschatological (end-time) ethic—believing the end of the age was imminent, Jesus gave principles for such an impending period. Thus, the sermon provides only an “interim ethic”**

Different Views

- **Intentional/internal ethic—one's intention and internal motivation is the thrust of the sermon**
- **Call to repentance—the sermon's intent is to reveal our spiritual impotency and drive us to repentance**

Different Views

- Principles of life for radical kingdom citizens—the sermon is a charter of conduct for Jesus’s followers at any time and in any age. This view sees God’s kingdom as already here and yet not fully here, as such His power is here and accessible now.

Principle #3

The Sermon on the Mount is Christ's revelation of the ideal, already available, model of the exemplary Christian life for those who live in the already-not yet kingdom of God, here on earth.

Principle #4

Much of Jesus' attention during the Sermon on the Mount is focused on inside-out transformation. The heart that treasures the kingdom of heaven above all else will be the starting point for transformation of the entire life.

Principle #5

Unfortunately, many of our local churches have been left with no choice but to differentiate between a believer in Jesus Christ and a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Disciple *Defined*

- **They know the Lord intimately and experientially, and they follow Him on their own.**
- **A disciple of God consistently and constantly immerses themselves in God's written Word for the right reasons.**

Disciple *Defined*

- **They are constantly aligning their lives to match what they know about God and His Word.**

Disciple *Defined*

- **Through the power of the Holy Spirit, they navigate the unknowns of life (the decisions, actions, and problems that are not answered in the Bible directly) in ways that clearly glorify the Lord.**

Disciple *Defined*

- **They continue to believe in and follow Jesus passionately even after they have gone through different seasons of major pain, heart breaking disappointments, prolonged sufferings, or unanswered prayers.**

Disciple *Defined*

- **Their lives clearly display a genuine love for God for all their Christian brothers and sisters, for their neighbors, and even for their enemies.**

Disciple *Defined*

- **They are committed to faithfully serving and fully accountable to the Lord through their local church family.**

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Unfortunately, many of our local churches have been left with no choice but to differentiate between a believer in Jesus Christ and a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Principle #6

Anyone can be an admirer or a fan of Jesus, because it costs very little or nothing at all. The Lord wants disciples (obedient followers), because being a disciple and a follower of Jesus will cost us very much, if not everything.

The Fans/Admirers

- **Amazed by His teachings**
- **Amazed by His miracles**
- **Felt honored by Jesus' compassionate attention**
- **Increasingly demonstrated hard hearts when Jesus served them with God's hard Truths**

The Potential Cost

- **Loss of career advancement**
- **Loss of financial security**
- **Loss of prestige or reputation**
- **Loss of relationships**
- **Loss of luxury**
- **Loss of freedom and/or kingship**
- **Loss of control**

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Principle #7

To believe in the Jesus Christ of the Bible in a biblical way and to become His disciple requires that you become a brand-new person (born again) through the power of the Holy Spirit and that you follow and obey Him.

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