

Welcome to week two in our journey! I hope that you found the reflections on The Beatitudes to be meaningful and helpful in your spiritual life. This week we read the entire Sermon on the Mount – don't worry, it is just three chapters! But in it we find the largest collection of Jesus' teachings in the Gospels. Read these teachings with an eye for them being the foundational truths on which Jesus built his ministry.

Read: Matthew Chapters 5-7 - The Sermon on the Mount

As you read the three chapters that make up the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew, perhaps this broad outline will help guide your reading and reflection.

- Chapter 4:23 – 5:16
The Beatitudes: Character and Destiny of Disciples
Disciples as Salt and Light
- Chapter 5:17 – 48
Jesus Reinterpreting the Law to the True Intent of the Law
- Chapter 6:1-18
Practicing True Piety
- Chapter 6:19 – 24
Our Relationship to Things
- Chapter 6:25- 7:11
Anxiety
Judging Others
Pearls Before Swine
Asking and Receiving
- Chapter 7:12
The Summary of Jesus' Teaching
- Chapter 7:13-29
Two by Two:
Two Ways
Two Harvests
Two Builders
Conclusion

Some questions to help you reflect:

- Does Jesus describe an attitude and practice of life that seems to be common these days?
- Do you think the Sermon on the Mount described a way of life common in Jesus' days?
- Jesus was a devout Jew who followed the practices of synagogue and Temple. Why do you think he felt a reinterpretation of the law was needed?
- What do you find the hardest to hear in these teachings?
- What do you find most encouraging?
- The Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12) could not be clearer. Why do you think it seems to be ignored today?
- If you were to live more fully into the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount, what would be the most challenging? What do you think would be the most rewarding?