

Gleanings of Grace

Matthew 5

Lesson 1

Matthew 5 is the first of three chapters that record what is commonly known as the Sermon on the Mount. Those who would follow Jesus were challenged by Him to live righteously, knowing that true righteousness begins with salvation. The words of this sermon are meant to reveal to disciples of Jesus the choices in this life that lead to a blessed life. May you glean much from our Lord's words.

OBSERVATION: Read Matthew 5

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *Jesus* and *God, the Father*.

Key Words: *Jesus, God, blessed, and the phrase I say to you (or I tell you)*
3. The term of conclusion *therefore* is used three times in this chapter. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what it is based upon.
4. The contrasting word *but* is used 15 times in Matthew 5. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.

5. Many of the contrasts in this chapter are based upon Jesus contrasting what the people had *heard* with God's truth. These contrasts began with the words, *But I say to you* or *But I tell you*. Refer to your marking of these phrases and list below the statements of Jesus that follow.

Background:

1. Read Matthew 4:23-25, the three verses prior to Matthew 5, and record what had been happening in Jesus' ministry.

2. It is important that we establish who Jesus was speaking to at this time. What are we told in:

Matthew 5:1 (the beginning of His sermon)

Matthew 7:28 (the end of His sermon)

 - a. The definition of disciple in its simplest form denotes "followers of Jesus". Who do you think Jesus might have been speaking to that day?

Read Matthew 5:1-12 - The Blessings of Righteous Living

1. This first portion of Jesus' sermon has been referred to as "The Beatitudes" which means "the Blessings". It contains several conditions of life, that when applied to the right attitude, reap a blessing in life as opposed to sorrow. Record the *blessing* promised next to each condition.

The poor in spirit:

Those who mourn:

The meek:

Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness:

The merciful:

The pure in heart:

The peacemakers:

The persecuted:

- a. Explain what you think Jesus' goal was in this portion of His Sermon on the Mount.

- 1.) How does society's list of admirable virtues compare and contrast with these kingdom virtues?

- b. Choose one of the *blessings* and share a few of your thoughts.

Read Matthew 5:13-16 - Effects of Righteous Living

1. Jesus used two words to describe all true disciples. What were they?

2. What did Jesus say about *salt* that *loses its flavor*?
 - a. What are some benefits of *salt*?
 - b. How might a believer, like *salt*, *lose her flavor*?
3. What did Jesus say about true *disciples* and *light*?
 - a. In what ways might a believer *hide her light*?
 - b. According to verse 16, what is the purpose of *shining*?
4. What does it personally mean to *let your light shine*?

Read Matthew 5:17-20 - Finding Righteousness

1. What rumor was apparently being spread about Jesus and His view of the Old Testament? See Matthew 5:17
2. What did Jesus say about Himself in:
Matthew 5:17

Romans 10:4
 - a. Romans 10:9 furthers our understanding of how Christ is *the end of the law* (or the completion of God's plan). What does it say?
 - 1.) In what way is Jesus the fulfillment, end of, and completion of the law?
3. Matthew 5:18-20 addresses the hopelessness of following the whole law, as the scribes and Pharisees instructed. Paul himself had fallen into the vanity of trying to keep the whole law in order to gain God's approval. Using Philippians 3:6-9, summarize Paul's change in thinking.

Read Matthew 5:21-48 - Righteous Choices

1. Using verses 21-47, complete the following chart: (some verses are long; feel free to list only pertinent words or phrases)

Verses	You have heard it said	But I say
21-26		
27-30		
31-32		
33-37		
38-42		
43-47		

2. Record the conclusion of Matthew 5:48.

- a. The word *perfect* is not calling us to strive toward moral perfection. Rather it is a challenge for us to press toward all God has for us. In what ways does Matthew 5 challenge the believer to do this?

- b. How did Paul express this desire in Philippians 3:12-15?

REVIEW: Read Matthew 5

1. Share one thing that challenged you from each section of this homework:

Matthew 5: 1-12

Matthew 5:13-16

Matthew 5:17-20

Matthew 5:21-48

*Blessed are those who keep His testimonies,
Who seek Him with the whole heart!*
- Psalm 119:2

Observation Worksheet

Matthew 5

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. ² Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. ¹³ "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. ¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. ¹⁷ "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. ¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. ²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' ²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. ²³ Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Assuredly, I say to you, you

will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny. ²⁷ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. ³¹ "Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' ³² But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery. ³³ "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.' ³⁴ But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; ³⁵ nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷ But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one. ³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' ³⁹ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. ⁴⁰ If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. ⁴¹ And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. ⁴² Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away. ⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? ⁴⁸ Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.