

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

In St. Matthew's Gospel the Apostle builds his account of the mission of the Messiah through 5 "books" centered on Jesus' 5 major discourses. The Sermon on the Mount is the first of the 5 major homilies by the Master which appear in Matthew's Gospel:

1. The Sermon on the Mount	Matthew 5:1-7:29
2. The Missionary Discourse	Matthew 10:5-11:1
3. Parables Discourse	Matthew 13:1-53
4. Homily to the Church	Matthew 18:1-19:1
5. Eschatological* Discourse	Matthew 24:1-26:1

*eschatology = etymology from the Greek *eschatos* = uttermost + *logos* = word or discourse.

Usually interpreted as meaning the "last things"; dealing with death, particular and general judgments, heaven, hell and purgatory.

In St. Matthew's Gospel the Sermon on the Mount is revealed in three chapters (chapters 5-7), and the sermon can be divided into 10 major sections:

1. The Beatitudes	Matthew 5:3-12
2. The Salt and Light teaching	Matthew 5:13-16
3. Definition of true righteousness	Matthew 5:17-48
4. Practice of righteousness	Matthew 6:1-18
5. Seeking the kingdom of heaven	Matthew 6:19-34
6. Warnings of judging others	Matthew 7:1-6
7. Invitation to prayer	Matthew 7:7-12
8. The narrow gate	Matthew 7:13-14
9. Warning against false prophets	Matthew 7:15-20
10. The importance of good works	Matthew 7:21-29

HOLY MOUNTAINS OF GOD

Scripture passages recording events where a mountain figured prominently in the unfolding of events in salvation history:

1. The Garden of Eden	Genesis 2:10; Ezekiel 28:12-14
2. Noah's Ark rested on Mt. Ararat after the Great Flood	Genesis 8:4
3. The substitutionary atonement of the ram in place of the sacrifice of Abraham's son Isaac on Mt. Moriah	Genesis 22:2
4. Sinai Covenant on Mt. Sinai/Horeb	Exodus 19:12
5. The site of Solomon's Temple on Mt. Moriah	2 Chronicles 3:1
6. Elijah's defeat of the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel (carmel is a Hebrew word for "garden")	1 Kings 18
7. Jesus and the giving of the New Covenant law on the Mt. of Beatitudes	Matthew 5
8. Jesus' official appointment of Peter as Vicar of the Church on the mountain at Caesarea Philippi	Matthew 16:13-19; Mark 8:27-30; Luke 9:18-21;
9. Jesus prevailed over temptation on a mountain	Matthew 4:8-11; Luke 4:1-13
10. The Mt. of Transfiguration when Jesus appeared in His glory	Matthew 17 (St. Peter referred to this place as "the holy mountain" in 2 Peter 1:16-18)
11. Jesus is arrested in a garden on the Mt. of Olives; Jesus ascended to the Father from the Mt. of Olives	Matthew 26:47ff; Mark 14:43ff; Luke 22:47ff; John 18:3ff; Acts 1:1-19
12. Golgotha, where Jesus was crucified was a lower elevation of Mt. Moriah	Matthew 27:32-36; Mark 15:21-27; Luke 23:26-34; John 19:17-24

For more references to the "mountain of God" see Ezekiel 28:13-14; Isaiah 2:2-4; 11:9; 25:6-9; 56:3-8; 65:25; Daniel 2:34-35, 44-45; Micah 4:1-4; Matthew 5:14.

TIME LINE 3/2 BC – 70 AD

YEAR	EVENT
3/2 BC 28 AD Spring 30 AD	-Birth of Jesus* -Jesus' ministry began in the fifteenth year of the Emperor Tiberius (Lk 3:1, 23). -Jesus of Nazareth was executed by the Romans. Three days later He arose from the dead. -Forty days after His resurrection Jesus ascended to the Father. -Fifty days after the Resurrection (ten days after the Ascension), on the Jewish Feast of Weeks (called the Feast of Pentecost by Greek culture Jews) God the Holy Spirit descended upon and indwelled the disciples waiting in the Upper Room. It is the Second Great Pentecost and the birth of the New Covenant Church
33 ? 34	-Stephen was martyred. Christian persecution by Jews intensifies
35	-Peter served as Bishop of Antioch for 7 years
37	-Roman Emperor Tiberius smothered to hasten his death
41	-Emperor Caligula assassinated and succeeded by Claudius
42 –67	-Peter went to Rome to establish the headquarters of the Universal (Catholic) Church -James the Just serves as the first Christian Bishop of Jerusalem
43	-Roman Emperor Claudius initiates conquest of Britain. -Paul's conversion
46 - 67	-Paul's missionary journeys
49 – 50	-Council of Jerusalem
54	- Emperor Claudius poisoned by his wife and succeeded by her son Nero
59	- Nero orders the death of his mother
60	- Nero murders his wife and marries Poppaea, a Jewish sympathizer. - Queen Boudicca's revolt in Britain
62	-Parthians revolt against Rome. - James Bishop of Jerusalem martyred
64	-Great fire of Rome. Rome began persecution of Christians
65	-Nero murdered his pregnant wife Poppaea
66	-Roman procurator of Judea, Gessius Florus, murdered 3,600 Jews (crucifying circa 2,000) in May. May – Oct. Christians flee Judea. -Jewish Revolt against Rome begins with massacre of Jerusalem Roman garrison in Oct. -Roman gentiles of Caesarea killed 20,000 Jews -Jewish army defeated and massacred the Roman garrison at Masada -Gentiles of Damascus, Syria massacred 10,000 Jews -Roman occupied cities across Judea, Samaria, Egypt, Syria, & Asia attack Jews. -Roman General Cestius Gallus' army defeated in Nov. and driven out -Jews fight each other; 3 different factions. Each leader claims to be 'messiah.' -Numerous earthquakes
67	-General Vespasian & son Titus come across the Euphrates River; arrive

	<p>in Judea from Syria with 4 Roman legions to destroy the Jews.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Revolts against Rome in Gaul & Spain -Peter & Paul executed in Rome (some time between 64-67?)
68 - 69	<p>-“The Year of Four Emperors” Nero commits suicide and is succeeded by Galba, Ortho, and Vitellius who is succeeded by General Vespasian. Vespasian is named Emperor by Roman Senate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Roman army destroys Qumran (community where Dead Sea Scrolls found)
70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -General Titus began siege of Jerusalem in March. It lasts 3 ½ months. The 9th of Ab: the Temple and Jerusalem are destroyed by the Roman army. Jewish historian Josephus estimated the dead of Jerusalem at 1,197,000. - Jews who survived revolt are sold into slavery
<p>M. Hunt © copyright 2000 www.agapebiblestudy.com</p>	

*see the document “Dating the Birth of Jesus of Nazareth”

Roman Emperor		Ruler in Judea	High Priest *Boethus Family +Ananus Family	Date of High Priest
Augustus 27BC-14AD (Octavian consolidated power, eliminating all rivals by 29, but was declared Augustus Caesar by the Roman Senate in 27)	H E R O D I A N S	Herod the Great 37BC – 4/1BC	-Ananelus -Aristobulus (Hasmon prince and brother-in-law of Herod -Jesus, son of Phabi -Simon son of Boethus* -Matthias son of Theophilus* -Joseph son of Elam -Joazar son (?) of Boethus* -Eleazar brother of Joazar*	37BC 36BC ? ? ? 4BC? 4BC?
	M O N A R C H Y	Archelaus, son of Herod Ruled 4/1BC deposed by Romans after 2 years. Herod's heirs Antipas, Agrippa I*, Herod of Chalcis, ruled the Galilee, & other territories	(Romans appoint High Priests)	
ROMAN		ANNEXATION OF	JUDEA	
Tiberius 14-37AD	R O M A N	-Coponius (Prefect) 6-9AD -Ambibulus (Prefect) 9-11AD -Rufus (Prefect) 12-14AD -Gratus (Prefect) 15-26AD -Pilate (Prefect) 26-36AD -Marcellus (Prefect) 36-37AD	-Joazar (reappointed)* - Annas son of Seth + (in Greek = Ananus) -Ishmael son of Phabi -Eleazar & Simon sons of Annas+ -Caiaphas son-in-law of Annas+	5/6AD 6-15AD 15-17AD 17-18AD 18-36AD
Caligula 37-41AD	P R E F E C T S	-Marullus (Prefect) 37-41AD	-Jonathan, son of Annas+ -Theophilus, son of Annas+ -Matthias son of Annas+	37AD 37-41AD 41-48AD
Claudius 41-54AD		-Herod Agrippa I 41-44AD	(Matthias continues as High Priest)	
Nero 54-68AD	R. P R E F E C T S	-Cuspius Fadus (Prefect) 44-46AD -Tiberius-Alexander (P) 46-48AD -Ventidius Cumanus (P) 48-52AD -Marcus Antonius Felix (Prefect) 52-60AD -Porcius Festus (Prefect) 61-62AD -Albinus (Prefect) 62-64 -Gessius Florus (Prefect) 64-66AD	-Ananias son of Nebedaeus -Ishmael son of Phabi -Annas son of Annas+	48-59AD 59-61AD 62-70AD
M. Hunt copyright 1998 www.agapebiblestudy.com				

Blessed are they (blessed are you) who are persecuted: we take up our crosses and follow Jesus, committing ourselves to everything He has taught us, even enduring persecution for His sake, but doing so joyfully because we know He has promised us eternal life in our Father's Kingdom.

With Christ living in us we become conformed to His image of peace and love. In the image of Christ we become divine children of His Father

"The only ladder to heaven is the Cross"
-- St. Rose of Lima

Blessed are the peacemakers

Our old hearts are replaced with the pure heart of Jesus our Redeemer. We will see God's face in the faces of everyone with whom we share His love.

Blessed are the pure in heart

When we show our mercy and forgiveness we will be given mercy and forgiveness through Jesus' perfect Sacrifice on the Cross

Blessed are the merciful

Seek the King of Righteousness to be filled by Christ in the Eucharist

← **Turning Point**

Blessed are those who hunger & thirst for righteousness

Yield our will to God's will for our lives = renewal → inherit "the Land"; the Church = dominion to bind and loose

Blessed are the meek

Mourn own sins and world sin = purification → comfort & strength, Reconciliation

Blessed are those who mourn

Those who acknowledge their need for God → Kingdom of Heaven = eternal life promised through Baptism and faithfully living the Law of love on a life time journey of faith

Blessed are the poor in spirit

The Progression of the Beatitudes

Beatitudes contain 7 or 8 (depending on how you count them) successive fundamental spiritual states that every Christian must strive to achieve. The Beatitudes must be lived fully and completely just as the 10 Commandments have to be lived in their entirety. **Gospel of St. Matthew 5:1-11**

Typology of Moses and Jesus

Scriptural types: *A biblical person, thing, action, or event that foreshadows new truths, new actions, or new events. In the Old Testament, Melchizedech and Jonah are types of Jesus Christ. A likeness must exist between the type and the archetype, but the latter is always greater. Both are independent of each other (Catholic Dictionary, John A. Hardon, S.J.).*

MOSES

JESUS

An evil king/Pharaoh tried to kill him as a baby (Ex 1:22).	King Herod tried to kill baby Jesus (Mat 2:16).
He was hidden from the evil king/Pharaoh (Ex 2:2).	An angel said to hide the child from the evil King Herod (Mat 2:13).
Moses was sent into Egypt to preserve his life (Ex 2:3-4).	Jesus was taken into Egypt to preserve His life (Mat 2:13-15).
He was saved by women: his mother (Ex 2:3; [Miriam] 2:4; [Pharaoh's daughter] 2:5-10).	Saved and helped by His mother, Mary (Mat 2:14).
Pharaoh's daughter adopted Moses (Ex 2:10).	St. Joseph adopted Jesus (Mat 1:25).
Moses became a prince of Egypt (Ex 2:10).	Jesus is the Prince of Peace (Is 9:5; Mat 28:18; Lk 2:14).
Long period of silence from childhood to adulthood	Long period of silence from childhood to adulthood
Moses had a secret identity	Messianic secret = Jesus the Son of God
He tried to save a Hebrew kinsman (Ex 2:11-12).	Jesus came to save His Hebrew kinsman first (Mk 7:26-28).
Went from being a prince to a common man (Ex 2:15-19).	Went from being God to being a common man (Jn 1:1-3; Mk 6:3).
Saved women at a well (Ex 2:15-19).	Saved a woman at a well (Jn 4:1-42).
Moses became a shepherd (Ex 3:1).	He is the Good Shepherd (Jn 10:11).
Moses' mission was to redeem Israel from slavery to Egypt (Ex 3:10).	Jesus' mission is to redeem mankind from slavery to sin (Rm 3:23-26; 6:22; Titus 2:14).
Moses was loved and supported in his ministry by his sister Miriam (in Hebrew, Miryam).	Jesus was loved and supported in his ministry by His mother Mary (in Hebrew, Miryam).
He was often rejected by his own people	Jesus was often rejected by His own people
Moses gave God's law on the mountain of Sinai (Ex 20:1-31:18; 34:1-35).	Jesus gave the new law from the Mt. of Beatitudes (Mat 5:1-7:29).
Moses spent 40 days fasting on the mountain (Ex 24:18; 34:28).	Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the desert wilderness (Mat 4:2).
Moses performs signs/ miracles	Jesus performs signs/miracles
Moses offered his life for the salvation of his people after the sin of the Golden Calf (Ex 32:33-33).	Jesus offered His life for the salvation of the world (Is 53:12; Rom 5:12; 6:10; 2 Cor 5:15-21; Col 1:19-20; 2:14-15; 1 Jn 1:7; 2:2; etc.).
Moses was the prophet of the Old Covenant Church (Dt. 18:15; 34:10).	Jesus is the prophet (Jn 7:40), priest, and King of a New and everlasting Covenant = the universal Catholic Church.