

PRECEPT
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*Sermon on
the Mount*

HOW CAN I BE BLESSED?

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®
SERMON ON THE MOUNT
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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—New American Standard Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000

Commentaries on Matthew

(See commentary list below.)

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

CARSON, D. A.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew 1–12

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995.

LLOYD-JONES, D. MARTYN

Studies in the Sermon on the Mount

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1987

MACARTHUR, JOHN

The Only Way to Happiness

Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1998

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.

LESSON ONE

Overview

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES Observation Worksheets on Matthew 4–7, located in the Appendix
Word studies

Beloved, as you begin your inductive study of the Sermon on the Mount, let us share this important insight from A. W. Tozer:

Sound Bible exposition is an imperative must in the Church of the Living God. Without it no church can be a New Testament church in any strict meaning of that term. But exposition may be carried on in such way as to leave the hearers devoid of any true spiritual nourishment whatever. For it is not mere words that nourish the soul, but God Himself, and unless and until the hearers find God in personal experience they are not the better for having heard the truth. The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to bring men to an intimate and satisfying knowledge of God, that they may enter into Him, that they may delight in His Presence, may taste and know the inner sweetness of the very God Himself in the core and center of their hearts.¹

If you will take the truths you learn from this study to heart, they will do more than just sit in your mind; they will conform you into the image of our blessed Savior, Jesus Christ.

Now, Beloved, may God Himself be the very end of all your study; this is our prayer for you.

DAY ONE

The first thing you need to do when beginning an inductive study of God's Word is to become as thoroughly familiar with your material as possible. There is no substitute for repeated readings of the text. The more you read it, the better; so every chance you get, read Matthew 5–7, located in the Appendix. If you are alone, read it aloud. You will find yourself automatically memorizing it.

¹A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God* (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: Christian Publications, Inc., 1948) pp. 9-10.

1. Start with prayer. Truth is revealed. Unless the Spirit of God gives you understanding, all you have is information. Therefore, develop the habit of beginning each day's study with prayer. Confess your utter poverty before God; ask Him to open the eyes of your understanding and to sanctify you through the truth. His Word is truth (John 17:17).
2. Read Matthew 4:12-13; 4:23-5:2 and 7:28-29 and answer the following questions:
 - a. What is the geographical setting of this portion of the Word of God that we call the Sermon on the Mount?
 - b. Where is this mountain or hill?
 - c. Who is there?
 - d. According to 5:2 and 7:28-29, what is Jesus doing?
 - e. What does this tell you about the content of Matthew 5-7?
3. Good, we have the basic setting; now let's read the teaching of Matthew 5, 6, and 7 and note those Jesus addresses in this teaching. In light of what you observed:
 - a. What kind of people is Jesus addressing?

- b. Does His message pertain to today or to a future age? Give the reason for your answer.

Well, you are off to a good start. It's quite a teaching, isn't it, and we haven't begun to plumb its depths. What riches we will discover!


DAY TWO

1. Context is critical when it comes to interpreting the Word of God correctly. Therefore, we are going to begin this day by reading Matthew 1–4. As you finish each chapter, summarize below the main subjects or events covered in that particular text.
 - a. Matthew 1

 - b. Matthew 2

 - c. Matthew 3

 - d. Matthew 4

2. Now read Matthew 4:12-25.
 - a. Consult the map at the end of this lesson so you will know where these geographical locations are. You may want to double underline in green all these places.
 - b. Also mark in a distinctive way every reference to *the kingdom*. You might want to draw a purple crown and color the inside blue.
 - c. Mark every occurrence of *repent*. If you need a suggestion, color it yellow and put a red symbol around it like this: .

3. Now compare Matthew 4:17 with Matthew 3:1-2. Who is doing what in these verses?

4. Look up the Greek word for *repent* and record what you learn about the meaning of repent and/or repentance. If you've never done a word study, you will find it helpful to consult *How to Study Your Bible* in the section "It's All Greek to Me."

5. One final question and we will call it a day. If a person repented, do you think it would be known? How?

DAY
THREE

1. Read Matthew 5 and mark references to *the kingdom of heaven* as you marked *kingdom* yesterday. Also mark references to *righteousness*. You might want to color it blue.

List what you learn from this chapter about the kingdom of heaven. Simply look at each place where you marked the text and see what it tells you. Next to your insight record the number of the verse. If you prefer to record the list in the margin of your Observation Worksheet rather than below, do so.

2. Now read Matthew 6 and once again mark every reference to *the kingdom* and to *righteousness*. Record new things you learn about the kingdom on the list you just started.
3. Now read Matthew 7 and mark *kingdom* or *kingdom of heaven* again. Then list what you learn from marking this one verse.
4. Look up the Greek word for *righteous/righteousness* and record what you learn about the meaning of this word.
5. Finally, take a few minutes to reflect on what you've learned over these past days about the kingdom of God and about righteousness.
 - a. How important is righteousness in the kingdom of heaven?
 - b. How important is righteousness to you?

DAY
FOUR

1. Let's read Matthew 5 again. Although we will study this enlightening chapter in greater depth in a later lesson, we want you to have a good grasp of its basic content. Therefore, read the chapter again. There are two key phrases you will see repeated from verses 21 and 22 through the end of the chapter. Mark each of these in a distinctive way on your Observation Worksheet.

2. What is the key word repeated in Matthew 5:3-12?

3. How does Jesus describe those who are blessed in Matthew 5:13-16?

4. What does Jesus seem to be saying in His teaching beginning at verse 17 to the end of chapter 5?

5. What do you think are the main teachings of Jesus in chapter 5? Summarize them as briefly as possible and list them.

6. Now read Matthew 6:1-18. Watch for and mark the phrases that in some way say, “*When you. . .*” or “*Whenever you*” Read 6:1 with each of these phrases.
 - a. What seems to be the relationship of 6:1 to the phrases?

 - b. So what three practices are dealt with in this first portion of chapter 6? List them.

7. Finally, Beloved, think about all you have observed today. How important do you think this teaching of Jesus is to *you* and to the church of today, or is it not relevant for our times?

You have done such a valuable study this week and you are to be commended. Each of us on the staff of Precept Ministries International wants to thank you for your desire to know God and His Word and the discipline you have shown in order to achieve your goal. So many desire to be righteous—but not everyone is willing to discipline themselves for the purpose of godliness. Thank you for affirming to us the value of our labors on your behalf. It's so easy to call you "Beloved" even as Paul, Peter, and Jude did in their epistles.

DAY
FIVE

1. Today we are going to finish our overview of Jesus' teaching to His disciples and the multitude that joined them sometime during His teaching. We'll begin where we left off—Matthew 6:19. Read verses 19-34 and mark in distinctive ways:
 - a. "Do not _____"
 - b. "But _____"
2. Now summarize what Jesus covers in His teaching in these final verses in Matthew 6. List your insights.
3. Read Matthew 7:1-20. Watch for verses that begin with specific instructions. Underline these in red. Do you see any connection between chapter 7 and chapter 6 with respect to the teaching or flow of thought? Record your insights.

4. Now read Matthew 7:21-27. Without studying them in depth (we will do this at the end of our study), simply summarize what Jesus is doing at the end of His teaching.

5. If you have time, it will be very profitable to your understanding of Jesus' teaching to outline its main points. To do this simply look at all you have recorded about the content of these three chapters these last two days and put it in outline form. If you don't know how to do an outline, you will find that explained in *How to Study Your Bible* by Kay Arthur. You will find a page for your outline at the end of this lesson.

6. Matthew 7:28 tells us that the multitudes were amazed at Jesus' teaching.
 - a. How has this impacted you as you've read it over several times?

 - b. What is your prayer, your desire as a result of bathing yourself in the water of Jesus' words this week? You might want to write it out.

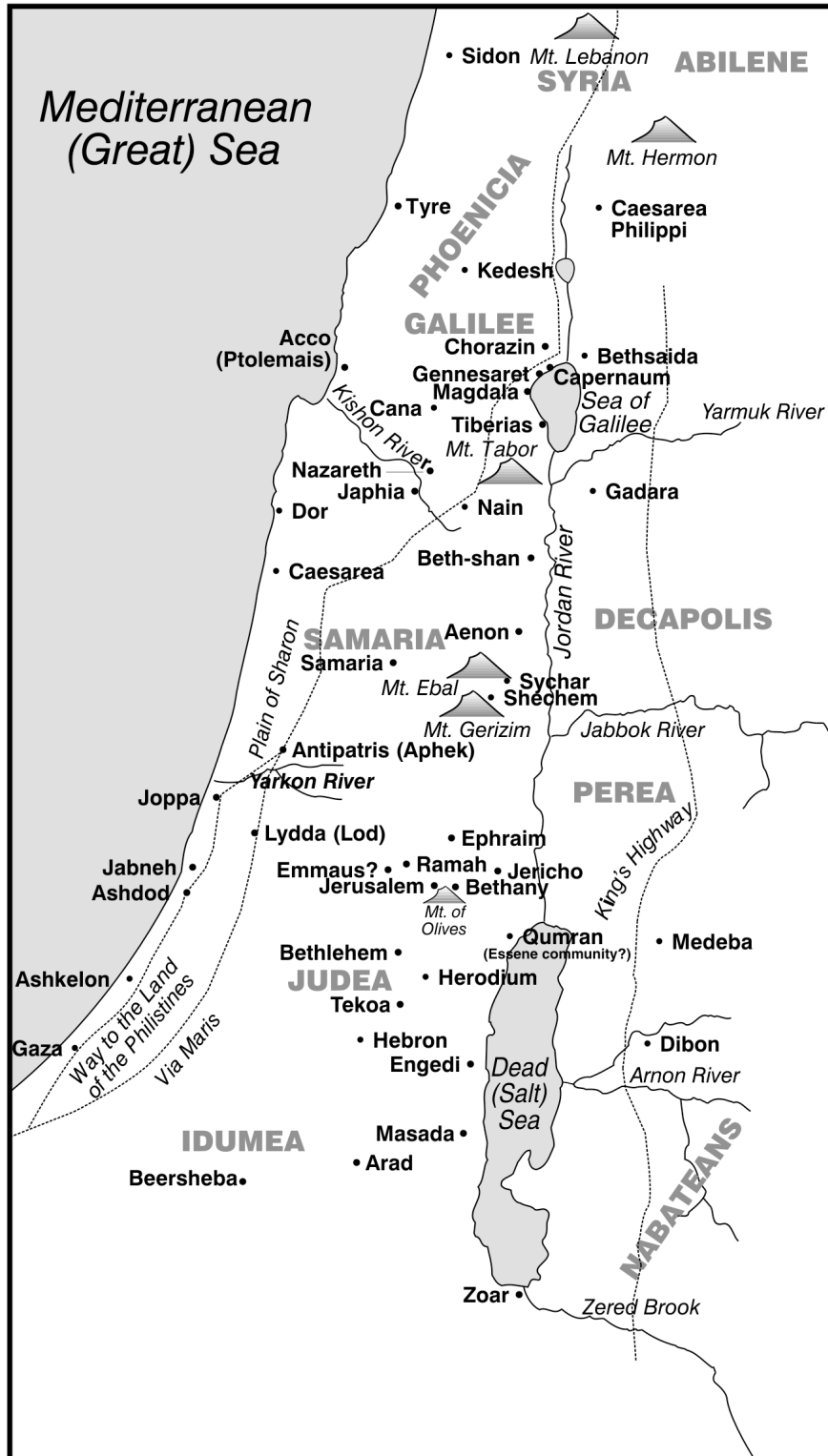
7. Finally, memorize Matthew 5:20, because the Sermon on the Mount defines the righteousness that characterizes every true believer—a righteousness that exceeds that of scribes and Pharisees.

Well, Beloved, you've taken your first step in discovering the riches of this teaching of our Lord. We are off to a wonderful start. May we encourage you to persevere. Your study will not go unchallenged, even as Jesus did not go unchallenged by the devil—but you can have victory the same way He did—by wielding the sword of God's Word and not yielding to the allurements of the world that will detract you from the study of His Word.

Outline of Matthew 5–7

Sermon on the Mount

Lesson 1, Map



MATTHEW 4

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THEN Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.

3 And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’ ”

5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple,

6 and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written,

‘HE WILL COMMAND HIS ANGELS CONCERNING YOU’;

and

‘ON *their* HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP,

SO THAT YOU WILL NOT STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.’ ”

7 Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written, ‘YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD YOUR GOD TO THE TEST.’ ”

- 8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory;
- 9 and he said to Him, “All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.”
- 10 Then Jesus said to him, “Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’ ”
- 11 Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and *began* to minister to Him.
- 12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee;
- 13 and leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali.
- 14 *This was* to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:
- 15 “THE LAND OF ZEBULUN AND THE LAND OF NAPHTALI,
BY THE WAY OF THE SEA, BEYOND THE JORDAN, GALILEE OF THE
GENTILES—
- 16 “THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SITTING IN DARKNESS SAW A GREAT LIGHT,
AND THOSE WHO WERE SITTING IN THE LAND AND SHADOW OF DEATH,
UPON THEM A LIGHT DAWNED.”
- 17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
- 18 Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

- 19 And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
- 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.
- 21 Going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them.
- 22 Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.
- 23 Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.
- 24 The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them.
- 25 Large crowds followed Him from Galilee and *the* Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and *from* beyond the Jordan.

MATTHEW 5

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

W H E N Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

- 2 He opened His mouth and *began* to teach 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 gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.
- 6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- 7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive 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 have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 “Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.
- 12 “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- 13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty *again*? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.
- 14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;

- 15 nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.
- 16 “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
- 17 “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.
- 18 “For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.
- 19 “Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others *to do* the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
- 20 “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.
- 21 “You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’
- 22 “But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty *enough to go* into the fiery hell.
- 23 “Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,
- 24 leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

- 25 “Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.
- 26 “Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last cent.
- 27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY’;
- 28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
- 29 “If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.
- 30 “If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.
- 31 “It was said, ‘WHOEVER SENDS HIS WIFE AWAY, LET HIM GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE’;
- 32 but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for *the* reason of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.
- 33 “Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, ‘YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FALSE VOWS, BUT SHALL FULFILL YOUR VOWS TO THE LORD.’
- 34 “But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,
- 35 or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING.

- 36 “Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.
- 37 “But let your statement be, ‘Yes, yes’ or ‘No, no’; anything beyond these is of evil.
- 38** “You have heard that it was said, ‘AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.’
- 39 “But I say to you, do not 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 your shirt, let him have your coat also.
- 41 “Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two.
- 42 “Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.
- 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 and pray for those who persecute you,
- 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous.
- 46 “For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?
- 47 “If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?
- 48 “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

MATTHEW 6
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

“B E W A R E of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

2 “So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

3 “But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

4 so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

5 “When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

6 “But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

7 “And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words.

8 “So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

9 “Pray, then, in this way:

‘Our Father who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

10 ‘Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

11 ‘Give us this day our daily bread.

12 ‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 ‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For
Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.]’

14 “For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father
will also forgive you.

15 “But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your
transgressions.

16 “Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites *do*,
for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men
when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

17 “But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face
18 so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who
is in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward
you.

19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust
destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

20 “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth
nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

- 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- 22 “The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.
- 23 “But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!
- 24 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.
- 25 “For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, *as to* what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?
- 26 “Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and *yet* your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?
- 27 “And who of you by being worried can add a *single* hour to his life?
- 28 “And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin,
- 29 yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these.
- 30 “But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will He* not much more *clothe* you? You of little faith!
- 31 “Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’

- 32 “For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.
- 33 “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
- 34 “So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

MATTHEW 7

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

“DO not judge so that you will not be judged.

2 “For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.

3 “Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?

4 “Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye?

5 “You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.

6 “Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

8 “For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

9 “Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone?

10 “Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he?

- 11 “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!
- 12 “In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
- 13 “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.
- 14 “For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.
- 15 “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.
- 16 “You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn *bushes* nor figs from thistles, are they?
- 17 “So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.
- 18 “A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.
- 19 “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
- 20 “So then, you will know them by their fruits.
- 21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.
- 22 “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’

- 23 “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’
- 24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.
- 25 “And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.
- 26 “Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.
- 27 “The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”
- 28 When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching;
- 29 for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as their scribes.

