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English Standard Version

*Sermon on
the Mount*

HOW CAN I BE BLESSED?

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SERMON ON THE MOUNT
HOW CAN I BE BLESSED?

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PAGE	CONTENTS
	LESSONS
1	LESSON ONE: Overview
11	LESSON TWO: Matthew 5:1-4
27	LESSON THREE: Matthew 5:5
39	LESSON FOUR: Matthew 5:6-8
51	LESSON FIVE: Matthew 5:9-16
65	LESSON SIX: Matthew 5:17-20
77	LESSON SEVEN: Matthew 5:21-48
89	LESSON EIGHT: Matthew 6:1-18
99	LESSON NINE: Matthew 6 and 7
109	LESSON TEN: Matthew 7:6-29
	APPENDIX
121	Observation Worksheets of Matthew 4–7
137	Cleansing and Filling



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—English Standard Version

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2013

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.



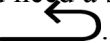
1. Start with prayer. Truth is revealed. Unless the Spirit of God gives you understanding, all you have is information. Therefore, develop the habit of beginning each day's study with prayer. Confess your utter poverty before God; ask Him to open the eyes of your understanding and to sanctify you through 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. . .*" 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?

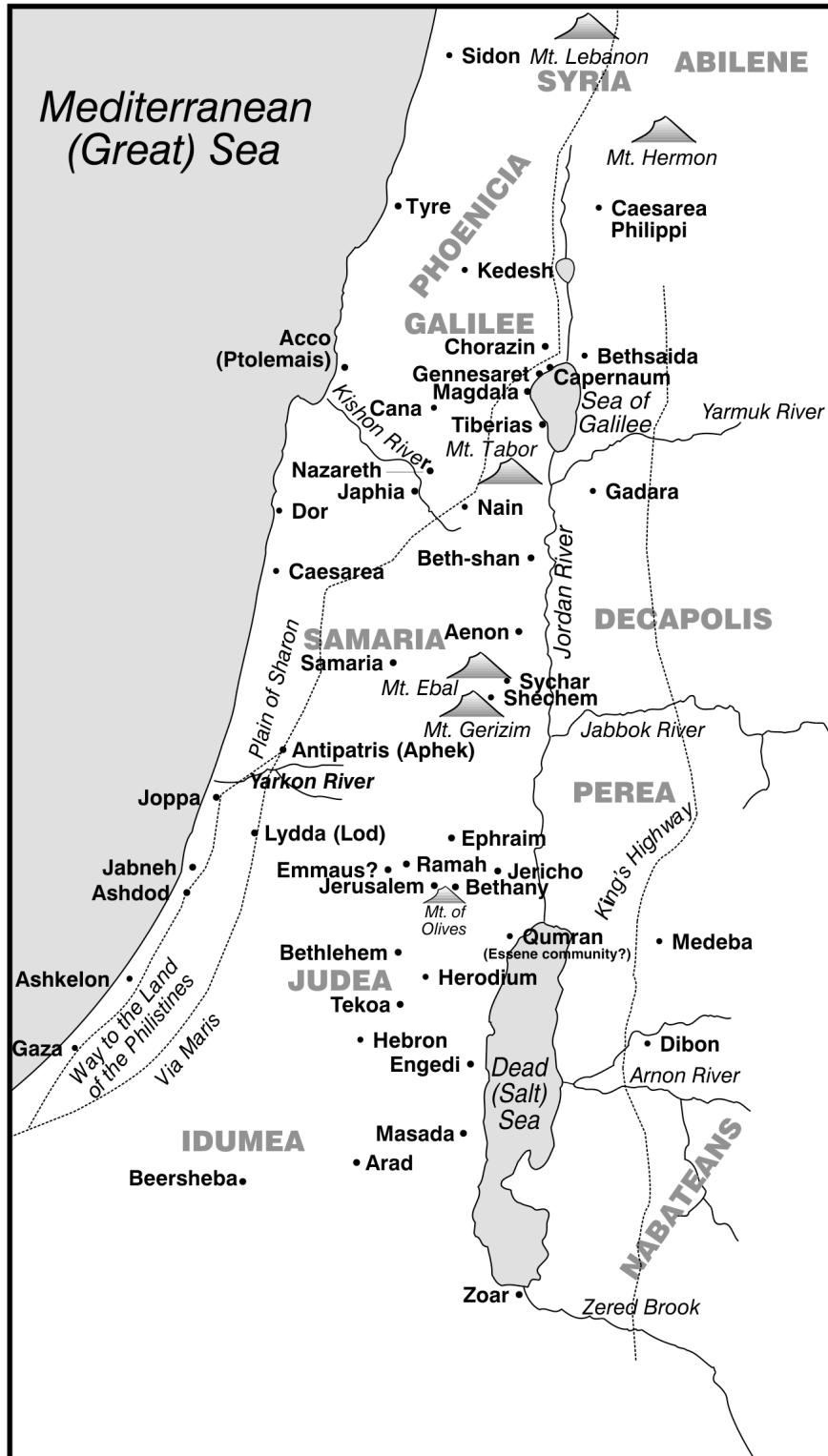
 - b. What is your prayer, your desire as a result of bathing yourself in the water of Jesus' words this week? You might want to write it out.

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





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 fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

3 And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God,
command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

4 But he answered, “It is written,
‘Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him 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,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ”

7 Jesus said to him, “Again 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 I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”
- 10 Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,
‘You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve.’ ”
- 11 Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.
- 12 Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee.
- 13 And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali,
- 14 so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:
- 15 “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
16 the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned.”
- 17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
- 18 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is 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 And 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 And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.
- 24 So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them.
- 25 And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.



MATTHEW 5

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

SEEING the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2 And 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 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 are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

12 “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.



- 14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.
- 15 “Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.
- 16 “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
- 17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.
- 18 “For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.
- 19 “Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
- 20 “For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never 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 liable to judgment.’
- 22 “But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.
- 23 “So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you,
- 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.



- 25 “Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison.
- 26 “Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.
- 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 lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
- 29 “If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.
- 30 “And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.
- 31 “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’
- 32 “But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.
- 33 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’
- 34 “But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,
- 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.



- 36 “And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.
- 37 “Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from 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 the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.
- 40 “And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.
- 41 “And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.
- 42 “Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would 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 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 do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?
- 47 “And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?
- 48 “You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.



MATTHEW 6

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

“BEWARE of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

2 “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

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

4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

5 “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

6 “But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

7 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.



- 8 “Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.
- 9 “Pray then like this:
- Our Father 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 lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. *[For yours is the kingdom and power and the glory, forever. Amen.]*
- 14 “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,
15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
- 16 “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.
- 17 “But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,



- 18 that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.
- 19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,
- 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.
- 21 “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- 22 “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, 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 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 the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.
- 25 “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, 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: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?
- 27 “And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?
- 28 “And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin,



- 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.
- 30 “But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?
- 31 “Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’
- 32 “For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.
- 33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
- 34 “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.



MATTHEW 7

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

“JUDGE not, that you be not judged.

- 2 “For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.
- 3 “Why do you see 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,’ when there is the log 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 dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.
- 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 the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.
- 9 “Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone?
- 10 “Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent?
- 11 “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!



- 12 “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
- 13 “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.
- 14 “For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.
- 15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.
- 16 “You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?
- 17 “So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.
- 18 “A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.
- 19 “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
- 20 “Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.
- 21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.
- 22 “On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’
- 23 “And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’



- 24 “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.
- 25 “And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.
- 26 “And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.
- 27 “And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”
- 28 And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching,
- 29 for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

