

## JESUS OF NAZARETH

*Sermon on the Mount (Matthew, Chapter 5)*

ca. 30 C.E.

*Nothing was written about Jesus in his own lifetime, and later accounts of his life, chiefly the Gospels in the New Testament, were written to convey certain religious, not historical, truths about who Jesus was. The broad outlines are clear: he was born around 3 B.C.E., preached in the last years of his life, and was crucified around 33 C.E. during the reign of the Roman emperor Tiberius. Although later followers developed a new religion, Christianity, around the death of Jesus, his ethical teachings, such as those in this passage, were in line with contemporary Jewish thought.*

**MATTHEW 5**

- [1] 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 obtain mercy.

---

Matthew 5:1-48 from the *New Revised Standard Version of the Bible*.

---

- [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 men 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 men 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 trodden under foot by men.
- [14] “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid.
- [15] Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. [16] Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
- [17] “Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them. [18] For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. [19] Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall 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 the men of old, ‘You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment.’ [22] But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall 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] Make friends 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 till 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 every one who looks at a woman lustfully  
has already committed adultery with her in his heart. [29] If your  
right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away; 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; 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 cer-  
tificate of divorce.' [32] But I say to you that every one who divorces  
his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, makes her an adulter-  
ess; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.
- [33] "Again you have heard that it was said to the men 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 swear 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 swear  
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 one who is evil. But if  
any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also;  
[40] and if any one would sue you and take your coat, let him have  
your cloak as well; [41] and if any one forces you to go one mile, go  
with him two miles. [42] Give to him who begs from you, and do  
not refuse him 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 have you? Do not even  
the tax collectors do the same? [47] And if you salute only your  
brethren, 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.