

## Come Follow Me February 18 – 24: Matthew 5; Luke 6

### Blessed are Ye

#### **The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5):**

Christ delivered principles much like those He gave during His sermon on the mount to the Nephites when He visited them. The account is in 3 Nephi 12. Compare the things He said in both instances and discuss them. We'll be focusing on Matthew here and bringing in important points from 3 Nephi 12.

Christ delivered this sermon on a hill in Galilee, perhaps near Capernaum.

#### **Blessed are the poor in spirit (v 3):**

Why would the Kingdom of Heaven belong to those who are poor in spirit? The Book of Mormon adds, "who come unto me." What does it mean to be "poor in spirit"? How can being poor in spirit lead us to be humble?

#### **Blessed are the peacemakers (v 9; also 21 - 26):**

What does it mean to be a peacemaker? How does a person accomplish making peace? We live in a time of confusion and controversy where everyone can participate online, especially through social media. How can you be a peacemaker there?

#### **Let your light so shine (v 16):**

This verse says to let your light shine, not so that people will glorify you, but so that they will glorify your Father in Heaven. What is the difference, and how should you shine your light so that this happens?

#### **I am not here to destroy the law (vs 17 - 20; also 38 - 42):**

Few people understand what Christ is saying here. They have the wrong impression that the Law of Moses was (is) a law of RETRIBUTION, where you can inflict an eye for an eye, but that Christ threw out the Law of Moses and gave the people a law of love instead – a higher law.

Yes, Christ gave us a higher law, but He did away only with animal sacrifice from the Law of Moses. The other commandments are the foundation of the building we call the gospel. The Law of Moses encompasses sacrifice and repentance, upon which the gospel is built. Unless we can live those laws, we can't progress to anything higher.

The Law of Moses, when properly understood, was not a law of retribution, but a law of RESTITUTION. It made sure the weak and victimized were compensated. Jews restored 4-fold that which they had injured or destroyed. Thus, if I killed the ox you used to plow your fields, I would restore to you 4 oxen, and in the meantime see that your fields were plowed. The reason we believe some sins are more serious than others is because it is impossible to make restitution to the victims of some sins, such as murder, the theft of virtue, etc.

Thus, the foundation of the gospel, the Aaronic law, was being fulfilled in the Law of the Heart that Jesus brought.

### **Swearing (vs 33 – 37):**

Using the name of the Lord in vain is actually invoking the power of God by using His name for a useless purpose. Christ here admonishes us not to use any of God's creations, either, because by reference, they are all His.

### **Be ye Therefore Perfect (v 48):**

Take a look at this article: <https://thirdhour.org/blog/faith/belief/perfection-isnt-what-you-think/>

The scriptures come to us from the Jews, and what you see in this article is the Jewish definition of perfection, which we have been taught to mean completeness. As you know, for Jews the number for perfection is 7. Completeness comes with the 7 holy attributes of God. This article shows that some of these attributes come with making and keeping temple covenants.

### **Luke 6:**

Harvesting and healing on the Sabbath (vs 1 – 11):

Jesus angered the Pharisees when He and His disciples plucked "corn" (there was no corn as we know it grown in the Holy Land <https://www.lds.org/scriptures/bd/corn?lang=eng> and this was barley or wheat, probably). They then rubbed away the chaff and ate. No work can be done on the Sabbath. Observant Jews today prepare their Sabbath meals the day before. Jesus recited the story of David and his friends who ate the temple showbread, when it was lawful only for the priests. David's needs were extreme. Christ was showing that the Sabbath was made for man, and extreme needs should be cared for. But He incensed the Pharisees even more when He said, "That the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath" (v 5).

On another Sabbath Christ healed a man with a withered hand. It drove the Pharisees, who considered themselves guardians of the law, mad. Jesus asked them, is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath? Actually, there is a Mosaic law that can be

called upon by local rabbis, the law that enables you to pull your ox from the mire on the Sabbath to save its life.

In 1991 Israel enacted a secret airlift to rescue Ethiopian Jews and bring them to Israel. The airlift had to be done swiftly because it was executed in enemy territory. The Israel rabbinate evoked this Sabbath law so the airlift could be continued through the Sabbath day. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation\\_Solomon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Solomon)

### **Christ chooses His apostles (vs 12 – 16):**

All of Christ's original twelve apostles were Jews, descended from Judah. Most people probably envisioned Christ as a scribe at the beginning. A scribe was learned but could be of any tribe, while priesthood functions were supposed to be performed by Levites.

These were not men who would have automatically been respected in their communities. At least four were fishermen. The most educated may have been Matthew, but he was a publican, or tax collector for the Romans, and therefore hated by the citizens of Judea. Simon Peter was a Zealot, so today you would call him rightist in his politics. The Zealots were prone to secret violence to rid Judea of Roman rule.

### **Multitudes of people come to see Jesus (vs 17 – 49):**

Jesus now began to heal many. The whole multitude was eager to touch Him, and the scriptures say He healed them all. Here is either another account of the Sermon on the Mount, or a separate instance wherein Christ gave a similar message. This account is even more enthusiastic and contains advice that is timeless.

# Come Follow Me

NEW TESTAMENT 2019

## BEATITUDE MATCHING GAME

### Matthew 5; Luke 6

We read about Christ's "beatitudes" in Matthew 5:3-12 and Luke 6:20-26. A "beatitude" is a blessing, and to be blessed means to enjoy happiness. What Jesus teaches in his Sermon on the Mount is meant to lead us to lasting happiness. Here is a fun game to get more familiar with the beatitudes:

**Materials:** printed set of matching cards, scissors, scriptures

1. Print a set of matching cards (found below) and cut them out.
2. Read Matthew 5:3-12 and/or Luke 6:20-26 as a family. Discuss what beatitudes are and how they will lead us to lasting happiness.
3. Place all of the matching cards face down and scramble them. Then line them up in four rows with five cards in each row.
4. Take turns overturning one card and then another to see if they are a match. A match is two cards that complete a beatitude verse in Matthew 5 (for example, a match would be one card that says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit" and another that says, "for theirs is the kingdom of heaven").
5. If it is a match, the person gets to keep the two cards. If it's not a match, they have to turn both of the cards back over in their spots.
6. Continue taking turns until all of the matches are made. Whoever has the most matches wins the game.

\*Keep a set of scriptures on the table so you can check to see what's right.

Blessed are the poor in spirit...	...for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.	Blessed are they that mourn...	...for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek...	...for they shall inherit the earth.	Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness...	...for they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful...	...for they shall obtain mercy.	Blessed are the pure in heart...	...for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers...	...for they shall be called the children of God.	Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake...	...for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely...	...for my sake.	Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven...	...for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

# Come Follow Me

NEW TESTAMENT 2019

## LIGHT THE WORLD ACTIVITY

### Matthew 5; Luke 6

Matthew 5:14-16 teaches us that we're a "light of the world." We are instructed to not hide it, but let it "so shine before men." Here's a simple activity to aid in the discussion of what it means to be a "light of the world:"

**Materials:** flashlights, candles, lighters, glowsticks, tealights, or other sources of light

1. Read Matthew 5:14-16 as a family.
2. Turn off the lights so you're in a dark room.
3. Ask how we can be a light for others. For each idea, turn on one flashlight, light one candle, etc. This could also be a great opportunity to reflect on the outcomes of your Light the World participation back in December.
4. When all of the light sources are on, talk about what a difference all of the light made in the previously dark room.

Resources for discussion:

- D&C 103:9-10
- ["Be a Light to the World"](#) by President Thomas S. Monson
- ["He Asks Us to Be His Hands"](#) by Sister Cheryl A. Esplin
- ["Taking upon Ourselves the Name of Jesus Christ"](#) by Elder Robert C. Gay
- ["Try, Try, Try"](#) by President Henry B. Eyring
- ["Service"](#) section in LDS Media Library

\*You could also do the Candle Making Activity from the week of January 7–13 in Third Hour's Come Follow Me section as you discuss how to be a light of the world.

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NEW TESTAMENT 2019

## SALT OF THE EARTH OBJECT LESSON

### Matthew 5; Luke 6

In Matthew 5:13, Christ tells his disciples that they are the “salt of the earth.” As mentioned in *Come, Follow Me—For Individuals and Families*, salt has many purposes like preservation, flavoring, and purification. Salt was even involved in the practice of animal sacrifice. Christ says it is the “savor” that makes it valuable, and when that is lost, the salt is useless. We can be considered the “salt of the earth” as we use our influence for good and share the gospel with others. Here is a fun object lesson to understand the importance of our role as the “salt of the earth:”

Credit for this idea goes to Michael Kientz on his Teach Them blog.

**Materials:** two raw eggs, two clear jars or glasses, salt, water, spoon

1. Fill both of the jars  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with water.
2. Ask the kids if an egg will float or sink if you place it in water. Let one kid carefully place an egg in one jar. It will sink.
3. Explain that the water represents the sinfulness of the world. We, as disciples of Christ, are the egg. Sins of the world can pull us down and cause us to become lost.
4. Explain that Christ has called us to be the salt of the earth. Have one of the kids read Matthew 5:13. Talk about the different uses of salt (preservation, flavoring, and purification). Then discuss what it means for us to be the salt of the earth (doing good, sharing the gospel, helping others, etc).
5. Ask one of the kids to pour salt into the other jar and stir it in **very thoroughly** with the spoon (add three tablespoons of salt for every cup of water).
6. Explain that as we add our “salt” or goodness to the world, we will be lifted up and others will notice and want to be lifted up as well. We can be in the world but not of the world.
7. Have one of the kids gently place the other egg in the salty water. It should float near the top if there’s enough salt in the water.

\*You may want to experiment beforehand to see exactly how much salt is needed to float the egg.