

## Study Questions: Sermon on the Mount



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## 1. Jewish Context

How does understanding Jesus as a Jewish rabbi teaching within a Jewish community influence the way we interpret his teachings in the Sermon on the Mount? Can you identify specific examples from the text where this context is evident?

## 2. The Beatitudes

In the Beatitudes, Jesus redefines who is 'blessed.' How do these blessings challenge traditional views of success and happiness? Which Beatitude resonates most with you, and why?

## 3. Radical Love

Jesus calls for loving enemies and praying for those who persecute you. How does this teaching compare to common cultural or personal understandings of justice and revenge? What practical steps can we take to live out this command in our daily lives?

## 4. Heart Over Actions

Jesus emphasizes internal transformation (e.g., not just avoiding murder but addressing anger, not just avoiding adultery but addressing lust). How does this focus on the heart challenge or deepen your understanding of righteousness? Are there areas in your life where this teaching feels particularly relevant?

## 5. Trust and Anxiety

In discussing trust in God's provision, Jesus points to the birds and flowers as examples of God's

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care. What are some practical ways to apply this teaching in a world that often values self-reliance and financial security above all else?

### **6. Light and Salt**

Jesus calls his followers the 'light of the world' and 'salt of the earth.' What do these metaphors mean to you? How can you practically embody these roles in your community?

### **7. Private Devotion vs. Public Piety**

Jesus warns against practicing righteousness for public approval. Reflect on modern examples where acts of faith might be done for show. How can we ensure our motivations align with God's desires rather than seeking the praise of others?

### **8. Building on the Rock**

Jesus concludes the sermon by comparing those who act on his teachings to a wise man building his house on a rock. What does 'building on the rock' look like in your life? Are there areas where you feel you've built on sand, and if so, how might you begin to rebuild on a firmer foundation?