

Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

The Sermon on the Mount

¹ Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them saying:

Q1. For what practical reason(s) did Jesus go “up on a mountainside and [sit] down”?

Mountainside?

Sit?



An artist's depiction of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

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https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.worldhistory.org%2Fimage%2F19573%2Fsermon-on-the-mount%2F&psig=AOv-VawlUqRueAH5bZ6Bfl_bWvOhx&ust=1766336635832000&source=images&cd=vfe&opi=89978449&ved=0CBYQjRxqFwoTCiS_aLTzJEDFOAAAAAdAAAAABAX

Lesson 5: Matthew 5:1-12



“Matthew 5 begins what is known as Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The size of the crowds following Jesus by this point in His ministry have become massive. People come from great distances in every direction to see His miracles of healing and hear His compelling teaching.

“The words people use to describe nature vary drastically from place to place. A person raised in the Midwestern U.S. might call a body of water a ‘pond’ while someone from central Africa might think of it as a ‘lake’. Likewise, what someone raised in ancient Israel called a ‘mountain’, someone from Nepal might call a ‘hill’. Jesus' sermon was not given in a location resembling Mount Everest or the Rocky Mountains. Jesus likely delivered this sermon in the hills near His home in Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee. One traditional site of the sermon provides an elevated spot with ample seating, allowed a great mass of people to hear Jesus speak. Jesus sits down to teach, the position assumed by most religious teachers of the day. This elevated sitting position would have been seen as a position of authority (Matthew 5:1).

“The crowd includes Jesus' chosen disciples, His committed followers, and likely some who were simply curious. The sermon itself may have been much longer than what Matthew includes in chapters 5-7. Matthew's call by Christ is explicitly described in Matthew 9:9, but ancient writing was not concerned with keeping events in strict order of time. Matthew's call might have happened during Jesus' ministry just prior to this speech (Matthew 4:23–25). This means Matthew may have been present for this message. As a tax collector, he would have been fluent in reading, writing, and keeping records. That opens the possibility that this is a word-for-word transcription of Jesus' sermon. Even if Matthew compiled this from Jesus' later repetitions, the words are still surprising, even confusing, and challenging (Matthew 5:2).” [© Copyright 2002-2025 Got Questions Ministries, accessed 12/19/2025. All rights reserved. <https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/3/Matthew-3-3.html>]

Q2. (Verses 1^b & 2) ***His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them saying:*** ① Did Jesus restrict His teachings to His disciples, only? ② Or should the reference to “disciples” be more generally interpreted as ‘learners’ — people seeking the wisdom of Jesus?

① Yes? No? (Thoughts?)

② Yes? No? (Thoughts?)



Definition:

Disciple n.

1. (Philosophy) a follower of the doctrines of a teacher or a school of thought.
2. (Bible) one of the personal followers of Christ (including his 12 apostles) during his earthly life.

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Q3. (Verses 1^b & 2) ***His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them saying:*** You are a student of the Holy Bible. You are a Believer in the saving grace of Christ Jesus. In a broad sense, might you be called Christ’s disciple?

Yes? No? (Thoughts?)

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The Beatitudes

-  These verses are called the Beatitudes (origination: ‘Latin *beātītūdō*, from *beātus* blessed’). Someone said that these are the “be-attitudes”, meaning that we, who believe, should adopt these “be-attitudes” as our attitudes, our traits, and our guiding principles to govern our behavior in this world. Be like Christ! When you examine your behavior against the mirror of Scripture, do you find a Christ-follower, or a world-follower? A Christ-follower, or an ideology-follower?

When Russell Moore, the editor-in-chief of *Christianity Today*, was interviewed on NPR, he told a chilling story about preaching. A number of pastors, he said, had reported to him essentially the same experience. They would be preaching on a passage like the Sermon on the Mount, including sayings such as “turn the other cheek,” “blessed are the merciful,” or “love your enemies,” only to find themselves sharply attacked at the church door.

“Where’d you get that nonsense?!?!” some aggrieved parishioner inevitably would ask.

“From Christ Jesus,” the startled pastor would respond. “I was literally quoting Christ Jesus.”

Far from mumbling an embarrassed apology, the critic would instead walk away, scoffing, “Yeah, but that doesn’t work anymore. That’s weak.”

A cautionary tale

Meme is from the ‘Clergy Coaching Network’, Facebook, January, 2024

And is based on an NPR Interview dated August 5, 2023; access verified: 12/22/2025:

<https://www.npr.org/2023/08/05/1192374014/russell-moore-on-altar-call-for-evangelical-america>

- Q4. Each of the verses 3-11 of the Beatitudes begins with “Blessed” (examples: ESV, NASB, and NIV). It is said that if a word is repeated in a section of verses, we are to heed the repetition. What can you infer from the repeated use of “Blessed”?

 Definition:

Blessed (blēs’id) also blest (blĕst) adj.

1. consecrated; sacred; sanctified.
2. worthy of adoration, reverence, or worship: the Blessed Trinity.
3. favored; fortunate: blessed with common sense.
4. blissfully happy.
5. beatified [To exalt; glorify].
6. bringing happiness and thankfulness: the blessed assurance of a steady income.
7. (used as an intensifier): every blessed cent.

Random House Kernerman Webster’s College Dictionary, © 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved. <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/Blessed>, last-accessed: 12/19/2025.

-  “**Blessed** . . . means more than ‘happy’, because happiness is an emotion often dependent on outward circumstances. ‘Blessed’ here refers to the ultimate well-being and distinctive spiritual joy of those who share in the salvation of the Kingdom of God.” [©1991, *The Zondervan NASB Study Bible*, ISBN: 9780310910923, published by Zondervan, Inc., Grand Rapids, MI 49530. All rights reserved. Page 1373]

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³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Q5. ***Blessed are the poor in spirit:*** What does “poor in spirit” mean? (Hints: Humble? Self-assured? Self-righteous? Knowing that I need God? Knowing that I have earned a place in Heaven by the strength of my own deeds?)

Q6. ***Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven:*** Why would the “poor in spirit” achieve “the kingdom of heaven”? (Hints: Because I know I can only achieve Paradise through God’s intervention? Or because I have earned a place in Heaven by the strength of my own actions?)

 “The ***poor in spirit*** recognize they are incapable of providing for themselves by their own strength, goodness, or righteousness. They know themselves to be spiritually bankrupt of true goodness. They cannot hope to bargain or earn their way into the kingdom of heaven.

“Jesus says, though, that they are blessed because ***the kingdom of heaven*** is theirs already. In other words, admission that one does not deserve a place in God's kingdom is a requirement for entrance into that kingdom. This is the opposite of assuming one has earned citizenship by his own merit.” [© Copyright 2002-2025 Got Questions Ministries. All rights reserved. <https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/3/Matthew-3-3.html>, last-accessed: 02/03/2026.]

Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Q7. ***Those who mourn:*** What word first came to mind when you read the word “mourn”?

Q8. ***Those who mourn:*** Are you happy or sad when you think about the reason you need to seek repentance?

Happy? Sad? (Why did you circle that answer?)

 If you are like me, the first thing that comes to mind when I read “mourn” is a person grieving the death of someone close to them.

That said, both John the Baptist and now Jesus have been preaching “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has

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come near”. For me, when I truly think about some sin I have committed, my reaction is one of profound sadness that I have failed and disappointed my Savior — once again — and that I must seek forgiveness and repent of that sin.

Jesus came into this world for me, and for you. When Jesus died on that terrible cross in a most excruciating, pain-filled execution, He died for me. Forgive me Lord Jesus for the unimaginable pain that I have caused You, Amen. His blood oozed and, perhaps, gushed from the vicious whipping that ripped across His back again and again, the thorns of the ‘crown’ pressed cruelly into His scalp, and the nails that pierced and then shredded the tendons, ligaments, bone, and muscles of His hands and feet as they were hammered through His flesh and into the wooden cross.

His shed blood covers my stains, my sins, so that I can be admitted into Heaven. Thank You, Lord! My sins have been covered-over, forgiven, and are no longer a barrier between the Lord and me. I will stand before Him sin-free. Not by my effort or my goodness, but by His! His agapé love for you and for me and His obedience to the cross are the greatest gifts the Lord Jesus gave us. PRAISE JESUS!!!

Philippians 2:5-11 [NIV-1984]

⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!

⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Q9. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted: What comforts those who mourn?

⁵Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Q10. *Blessed are the meek*: How would you describe a person who is “meek”?



Definition:

meek (mēk) adj

1. patient, long-suffering, or submissive in disposition or nature; humble
2. spineless or spiritless; compliant
3. an obsolete word for gentle

Collins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014. <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/meek> Accessed: 12/21/2025.



The English Standard Version (ESV) and the New International Version (NIV) translate ‘Οἱ πραεῖς’ as “the meek”. On the other hand, New American Standard Bible (NASB) translates the word “gentle”, and the International Children’s Bible (ICB) uses the phrase “Those who are humble are happy”.

Psalm 37:11 [NIV-1984]

But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.

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Matthew 11:29 [NIV-1984]

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 21:5 [NIV-1984]

"Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' "

1 Corinthians 3:19-20 [New American Standard Bible (NASB)]

¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the sight of God. For it is written: "He is the one who catches the wise by their craftiness [Job 5:13]"; ²⁰ and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are useless [Psalm 94:11]."

Q11. ***For they will inherit the earth:*** To help us understand this phrase, we must answer this question: what people-group primarily comprises Jesus' (and John the Baptist) audiences?

Jews? Gentiles? Others?

Matthew 3:5 [NIV-1984]

⁵ People went out to him [John the Baptist] from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.

Matthew 4:25 [NIV-1984]

²⁵ Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and the region across the Jordan followed him [Jesus].

 ***For they will inherit the earth:*** This might have been translated 'the land'. It is probable that here is a reference to the manner in which the Jews commonly expressed themselves to denote any great blessing. It was promised to them that they should inherit the land of Canaan. For a long time, the patriarchs looked forward to this, Genesis 15:7-8 (↓); Exodus 32:13 (↓). They regarded it as a great blessing. It was so spoken of in the journey in the wilderness, and their hopes were crowned when they took possession of the promised land, Deuteronomy 1:38 (↓); Deuteronomy 16:20 (↓). [©1834, Notes on the Bible by Albert Barnes. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/matthew/5-5.htm>. Accessed: 12/21/2025.]

 As with many Biblical passages, this verse has multiple layers of meaning. While the previous (↑) commentator Albert Barnes shares that the Jews inherited the "Promised Land" as a great blessing, the following (↓) commentator observes that Jesus' words apply to our souls and our future in Jesus' Kingdom. Both are true.

 "Now Jesus declares those who are meek to be blessed because they will inherit the earth. The word meek does not mean 'weak', though that's how many misinterpret it. The word is best understood as 'gentleness', or a refusal to take control by brute force or manipulation. Meekness, from a Christian perspective, is about faith. It is about trusting God to win the battle in the end instead of going to extremes to win the battle on our own terms. The concept is often referred to as 'strength under control', rather than 'strength seeking control'.

"This is exactly backwards from the world's common understanding. Most believe the world to be controlled by those strong and ambitious enough to take what they want. The world belongs to the rich, the dominant, and the bold. Jesus flips that around. He declares that the true inheritors of the earth are the meek.

"Once again, Jesus' meaning here is in connection to those who have faith in Him. If we belong to the Lord, and if the Lord becomes king of the earth, as the Messiah will, then all those who are His will inherit the earth with Him. 'Meekness' is not a requirement for becoming a true Christian, but meekness is something which naturally comes from having a saving knowledge of Christ.

"It should be said that true meekness takes courage; we must fight with ourselves to trust God's plan and His character. It's hard to be humble and patient when we cannot fully understand how good will win in the end." [©2002-

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Genesis 15:7-8 [NIV-1984]

⁷ He also said to him, "I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."

⁸ But Abram said, "O Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?"

Exodus 32:13 [NIV-1984]

Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'

Deuteronomy 1:38 [NIV-1984]

But your assistant, Joshua son of Nun, will enter it. Encourage him, because he will lead Israel to inherit it.

Deuteronomy 16:20 [NIV-1984]

Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the Lord your God is giving you.

Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Q12. *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness*: What might "hunger and thirst" mean in this verse? (Hint: As your body needs food and water to live, what might your soul want?)

Q13. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: What might "righteousness" mean in this verse?

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 Sometimes a different Biblical version will provide additional understanding to a specific passage or verse:

Matthew 5:6 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

"You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.

 "Here, Jesus states that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are blessed, meaning they have a good thing. Why? Because they will be satisfied.

"Commentators point to two possible meanings for 'righteousness' as used in this verse. First, Jesus could be talking about people who are eager to be declared righteous by God. They want to be made righteous, themselves, and to conform to the will of God. In that way, they are sincerely seeking to be saved. Those who come to trust in Jesus for their forgiveness from sin will receive exactly that from God (Romans 5:17 ↓). They will be saved.

"Another view is that Jesus has in mind those who are hungry to see righteousness 'win'. They long for justice to prevail. They want what is right to overcome what is wrong and evil in the world. These people, too, will be satisfied, because the kingdom of heaven will bring an end to all unrighteousness. Their appetite for righteousness will be completely satisfied." [© Copyright 2002-2025 Got Questions Ministries, accessed: 12/23/2025. All rights reserved. <https://www.bibleref.com/Matthew/5/Matthew-5-6.html>]

Romans 5:17 [NIV-1984]

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Q14. **For they will be filled [satisfied]:** ① What does "filled [satisfied]" mean in this verse (the two words ↓ are synonyms)? ② Does this verse give you comfort?

① IT WILL H _____ P _____ N ; IT WILL O _____ C _____ R !

② Do you take comfort in this verse? Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Revelation 21:3-4 [NIV-1984]

[An absolute promise]

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Q15. **Blessed are the merciful:** In general, who are the "merciful"?

 Definition:

mercy (mûr'sē) n. pl. mercies

1. Compassionate treatment, especially of those under one's power; clemency.
2. A disposition to be kind and forgiving; a heart full of mercy.
3. Something for which to be thankful; a blessing: It was a mercy that no one was hurt.
4. Alleviation of distress; relief: Taking in the refugees was an act of mercy.

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<https://www.thefreedictionary.com/mercy>

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Q16. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy: Who will show “mercy” to the “merciful”?

Matthew 6:2-4 [NIV-1984]

²“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

Q17. ***Blessed are the merciful:*** The Sermon on the Mount occurs presumably at the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry. Generally, who comprises Jesus’ audience?

Jews? Gentiles? Believers? Nonbelievers? Wealthy? Poor? Men? Women? Children? Other categories?

Q18. ***Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy:*** Does God show mercy to only those who believe in the saving grace of Christ Jesus?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Q19. ***Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy:*** Does God show mercy to any person performing a merciful act(s) — Believer or nonbeliever alike?

Yes? No? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Q20. ***Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy:*** ① Will God only show mercy upon the merciful when they enter Paradise upon the death of their physical body? ② Or will God show mercy to the merciful while they live in this world?

① Yes? No? Maybe? (Why did you circle that answer?)

② Yes? No? Maybe? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Revelation 20:11-15 [NIV-1984]

[The Great White Throne Judgment]

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is *the book of life*. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.

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- ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.
¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in *the book of life*, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

 “Hades is a term often used for the abode of the dead in general, and in certain contexts is specifically implied to be the realm of the wicked. In the Old Testament, it was called Sheol, and used in a very general sense. This contrasts with ‘paradise’, or ‘Abraham's Bosom’, which many interpret as a separated ‘compartment’ within Sheol / Hades, and the temporary waiting place for those of faith (Luke 16:19–23). Neither Sheol nor Hades is the eternal abode of any person; only the lake of fire has that distinction for unbelievers. Once again, we learn that the wicked are judged according to what they had done (Romans 6:23 ↓). No one at the great white throne judgment can plead innocent because their record is written in the books (John 3:36 ↓; Revelation 20:12 ↑).” [© Copyright 2002-2025 Got Questions Ministries. All rights reserved. <https://www.bibleref.com/Revelation/20/Revelation-20-13.html>, last-accessed: 12/26/2025]

Revelation 6:1 & 9-11 [New American Standard Bible (NASB)]

[Is a special ‘Hades’ located under the altar in heaven that is comprised of only those who had been killed because of the Word?]

¹ Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, “Come!” . . .

⁹ When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been killed because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; ¹⁰ and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who live on the earth?” ¹¹ And a white robe was given to each of them; and they were told that they were to rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers and sisters who were to be killed even as they had been, was completed also.

Romans 6:23 [NIV-1984]

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 3:36 [NIV-1984]

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

Q21. (Personal not to be discussed in a group) ***Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy:*** Are you “merciful”?

Yes? No? Maybe? (Why did you circle that answer?) An example:

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Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Q22. **Pure in heart:** Who might be an example of “pure in heart”?

 **pure in heart:** [Jesus draws a stark contrast between the Jewish religious leaders and followers of Christ Jesus.] “Pharisees . . . affected [an] outward purity, while their hearts were full of corruption and defilement. A principal part of the Jewish religion consisted [of] outward washings and cleansings: on this ground they expected to see God, to enjoy eternal glory: but Christ here shows that a purification of the heart, from all vile affections and desires, is essentially requisite in order to enter into the kingdom of God. He whose soul is not delivered from all sin, through the blood of the covenant, can have no Scriptural hope of ever being with God.” [©Public Domain, *Commentary on the Bible* by Adam Clarke (b. 1760/1762, d. 1832). Published in 6 volumes during the period 1810-1826 in Liverpool. <https://sacred-texts.com/bib/cmt/clarke/mat005.htm>, last-accessed: 12/25/2025.]

Q23. **Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God:** A person tells you, “I am a sinner. There seems to be no hope for me to ever ‘see God’. Temptation is all around me, and in me. I am not pure.” How would you respond to a Believer? How would you respond to a nonbeliever?

Believer?

Nonbeliever?

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

Q24. Blessed are the peacemakers: What is “peace”?

Q25. **Blessed are the peacemakers:** How do you define a “peacemaker”?

 **Definition:**
peace (pēs) n
1.a. the state existing during the absence of war
1.b. (as modifier): *peace negotiations*.

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2. (modifier) denoting a person or thing symbolizing support for international peace: *peace [negotiator]*.
3. (often capital) a treaty marking the end of a war
4. a state of harmony between people or groups; freedom from strife
5. law and order within a state; absence of violence or other disturbance: *a breach of the peace*.
6. absence of mental anxiety (often in the phrase peace of mind)
7. a state of stillness, silence, or serenity
8. at peace [an idiom]
 - 8.a. in a state of harmony or friendship
 - 8.b. in a state of serenity
 - 8.c. dead: *the old lady is at peace now*.

Collins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014. <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/Peace>, last-accessed: 12/27/2025.

James 3:17-18 [NIV-1984]

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

Ephesians 2:14–17 [NIV-1984]

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

Q26. ***Blessed are the peacemakers:*** ① Are you at “peace”? Or ② is there a war raging within you: a war between right and wrong, good and evil, purity and sin? ③ How does a Believer bring spiritual peace to himself or herself?

① Yes? No? (Please circle one.)

② Yes? No? (Please circle one.)

③

Romans 7:14-15, 21-25^a [International Children’s Bible (ICB)]

[Paul confessed in his Letter to the Romans:]

¹⁴ We know that the law is spiritual. But I am not spiritual. Sin rules me as if I were its slave. ¹⁵ I do not understand the things I do. I do not do the good things I want to do. And I do the bad things I hate to do. . . .

²¹ So I have learned this rule: When I want to do good, evil is there with me. ²² In my mind, I am happy with God’s law. ²³ But I see another law working in my body. That law makes war against the law that my mind accepts. That other law working in my body is the law of sin, and that law makes me its prisoner. ²⁴ What a miserable man I am! Who will save me from this body that brings me death? ^{25^a} God will. I thank him for saving me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Romans 8:1-2 [NIV-1984]

[Paul then answers the dilemma of the war raging within himself that he confessed in Romans 7 (↑)]

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

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Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Q27. *Those who are persecuted because of righteousness*: What does “righteousness” imply in this verse?

 *Because of righteousness*: “friends of God. We are not to seek persecution. We are not to provoke it by strange sentiments or conduct; by violating the laws of civil society, or by modes of speech that are unnecessarily offensive to others. But if, in the honest effort to be Christians, and to live the life of Christians, others persecute and revile us, we are to consider this as a blessing. It is . . . evidence that we are the children of God, and that he will defend us. (see 2 Timothy 3:12-13 ↓)” [©1834, *Notes on the Bible* by Albert Barnes. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/matthew/5-10.htm>, last-accessed: 12/30/2025.]

2 Timothy 3:12-13 [NIV-1984]

¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Q28. *Those who are persecuted because of righteousness*: Why would someone be “persecuted because of righteousness”?

 Does God have a special place for “those [who were] persecuted” and “killed because of the word of God, and because of [their] testimony”? See the citation Revelation 6:1 & 9-11 (↑) on page 9 of this StudySheet.

Matthew 24:9 [NIV-1984]

"Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.

John 15:18-20 [NIV-1984]

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

John 16:1-4 [NIV-1984]

¹ "All this I have told you so that you will not go astray. ² They will put you out of the synagogue; in

Lesson 5: Matthew 5:1-12

fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. ³ They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. ⁴ I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you.

Acts 5:14-18 [NIV-1984]

¹⁴ Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. ¹⁵ As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least [the Apostle] Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. ¹⁶ Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

¹⁷ Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸ They arrested [persecuted] the apostles and put them in the public jail.

¹¹ Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Q29. ***When people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil:*** If someone says something derogatory/evil about someone you love — your husband, your wife, your child, your ‘Best Friend Forever’ — is it easy to ignore their evil words, or do you want to defend your loved one?

Easy to ignore? Defend? (Why did you circle that answer?)

Q30. ***When people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me:*** If someone says something derogatory about Jesus or God or the Holy Spirit — is it easy to ignore the evil words, or do you tend to defend your Savior, your God?

Ignore? Defend? (Why did you circle that answer?)

 We must heed the  of Mark 3:28-29 (↓):

Mark 3:28-29 [NIV-1984]

[Jesus declared:]

²⁸ I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them [if forgiveness is sought].

²⁹ But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin."

 “Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit does not mean having doubts about if a particular church's practices are truly biblical. It doesn't mean harboring a spontaneous, disrespectful thought. It doesn't mean struggling with sin after salvation. It doesn't even mean blurting out a blasphemous statement against the Holy Spirit. It means a steady rejection of the convicting and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit throughout an entire lifetime. Those who persist in that rejection will not be forgiven.” [© Copyright 2002-2025 Got Questions Ministries. All rights reserved. <https://www.bibleref.com/Mark/3/Mark-3-29.html>, last-accessed: 12/31/2025.]

Lesson 5: Matthew 5:1-12

Q31. *When people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me*: Based on your knowledge of Scripture and your heart (your soul), how should we, who believe, respond to insults, persecution, or evil words?

Q32. *When people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me*: Based on your knowledge of Scripture and your heart (your soul), how should we, who believe, respond to social media postings denigrating our Savior, our God, our Bible?

 The Apostle Simon Peter teaches in 1 Peter 4:12-15 (↓) that we, who believe, will be persecuted for our faith. We should not be surprised (vs. 12-14). Then, he makes the distinction in verse 15 that we must not confuse persecution on behalf of Christ Jesus to that of judgment (discernment + consequence) for sins we have committed.

1 Peter 4:12-15 [NIV-1984]

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.

Matthew 5:38-47 [The Message (MSG)]

[Later in this chapter 5, we will study these verses – these statements from Jesus - in greater detail.]

³⁸⁻⁴² “Here’s another old saying that deserves a second look: ‘Eye for eye, tooth for tooth.’ Is that going to get us anywhere? Here’s what I propose: ‘Don’t hit back at all.’ If someone strikes you, stand there and take it. If someone drags you into court and sues for the shirt off your back, giftwrap your best coat and make a present of it. And if someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life. No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously.

⁴³⁻⁴⁷ “You’re familiar with the old written law, ‘Love your friend,’ and its unwritten companion, ‘Hate your enemy.’ I’m challenging that. I’m telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the supple moves of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best — the sun to warm and the rain to nourish — to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that.

Lesson 5: Matthew 5:1-12

Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

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

Q33. **Great is your reward in heaven:** Can you think of another verse(s) that corroborates this statement “great is your reward in heaven”? (Examples: Revelation 20:11-15; Revelation 6:1 & 9-11; Matthew 6:1-2)

Q34. **Great is your reward in heaven:** What do these words of Jesus mean to you?

Q35. **They persecuted the prophets:** What did Jesus mean “persecuted the prophets”?

1 Kings 18:1-4 [NIV-1984]

[One example of persecution: Elijah was a great prophet of the Lord. At this time in Israel's history, the king and queen were Ahab and Jezebel; they were evil.]

¹ After a long time, in the third year, the word of the Lord came to Elijah: “Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land.”

² So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab. Now the famine was severe in Samaria, ³ and Ahab had summoned Obadiah, who was in charge of his palace. (Obadiah was a devout believer in the Lord.

⁴ While Jezebel was killing off the Lord's prophets, Obadiah had taken a hundred prophets and hidden them in two caves, fifty in each, and had supplied them with food and water.)

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