

**A SUGGESTED OUTLINE OF
THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (MOUND)**

Matthew 5:1–7:23

Theme of the Sermon: A contrast of two ways of life; the fleshy way, which is man's attainment, and the "kingdom way," which is God's gift. The two ways are the same as that contrasted in Paul's writings as the way or mind of the flesh and the mind of the spirit (see Romans 8 and Galatians). From the beginning to end of the sermon, Jesus' "impressive" type of righteousness for the fraud that they are. This culminates in Matthew 7:22–23.

Method of the Sermon: Jesus teaches by paradox, illustration, simile, and metaphor. Neither here nor elsewhere does He teach systematically or exhaustively—that is, He does not give us a system of doctrine or moral rules, but aims to communicate a certain spirit to us, with concrete cases and striking sayings to fix that spirit or outlook in us.

- I. Initial statements about who is and can be *divinely well-off* or blessed, have both rightness and full joy—
 - A. That these who are wretched by human standards can have bliss (5:3–12)
 - B. The goodness available for the common person makes him the salt of the earth, the light of the world (5:13–15)
 - C. But not because of human attainment, but by God's gift (5:16)

- II. Man's way and God's way contrasted by how the child of the kingdom will act and be in principle life situations (5:17–7:12)
 - A. General statement for the child of the kingdom to complete *and* go beyond Pharisaical righteousness (5:17–20)
 - B. Contrast of the two ways in three types of situations where the *aggressiveness* of the male is usually displayed (5:21–37)
 1. Toward other men (5:21–26; compare 1 Cor. 6:1–8)
 2. Toward women (5:27–32)
 3. Toward God (5:33–37)
 - C. Contrast of the two ways in response to the actions and the status of others (5:38–48)
 1. Response to specific harmful actions (5:38–42)
 2. Response in attitude toward these classified as against us (5:43–48)
 - D. Contrast of the two ways in manner of *performing religious* acts (6:1–18)
 1. Doing "alms" or good deeds (6:1–4)
 2. Praying (6:5–15)
 3. Fasting (6:16–18)
 - E. Contrast of the two ways in how they make provision for the physical needs and wants of this life (6:19–34)

1. The posture prohibited to the child of the kingdom (6:19–24)
 2. Kingdom *thoughtlessness* (6:25–34; but compare Phil. 4:6–7, 11–13)
 - F. Contrast of the two ways in how they “manage” other people (7:1–12)
 1. Not by condemning them (7:1–5)
 2. Not by forcing “what they need” down their throats (7:6)
 3. But by prayer, we “handle them through God” (7:7–12)
- III. Final warnings (7:13–27)
- A. The two ways contrasted in terms of *case* and *accessibility* (7:13–14)
 - B. Leaders in the two ways contrasted—Leaders in man’s way will use you for their purposes (7:15–20)
 - C. Warnings about “big deal” righteousness, and how it will not gain admittance to the kingdom, or stand up in the last day (7:21–23)
 - D. Which way gives the firm foundation for a life which can stand the storms? (7:24–27)