

Messiah's Sermon

Matthew 5:1-7:29

1. Introduction

Was the sermon preached all at one time?

When was the sermon preached?

How is the sermon structured?

Jesus sat down; Jesus' audience sat around Him in concentric circles

A summary of the sermon

2. Ways the sermon has been understood and interpreted

Unbelieving interpretations:

Legalism – you earn heaven by your obedience to the sermon

Social Gospel – society will be transformed as people live the sermon

Existentialism – no moral absolutes; merely a personal challenge

Interim ethics – sermon only applies to the disciples present

Catholicism – Two-tier system – Clergy vs. Laity; Disciples vs. Average Christians

Believing interpretations:

Anabaptist – the sermon is obeyed by practicing social pacifism

Lutheranism – Law drives us to Gospel

Dispensationalism – The sermon is limited to a future kingdom

Covenantalism – Jesus is merely reiterating the Law of Moses

New Covenant Theology – Jesus is making new laws which supersede Moses

How are we to understand and apply the sermon?

Believers (Disciples)

Unbelievers (the crowd)

3. Reading of the Sermon on the Mount