



2011

Go And Make Disciples

The Cross and Beyond

Lesson 26:

**Jesus Teaches from a
Mountainside**

Scripture

Matthew 5-7
Luke 6:20-49

Memory Verse

Treat others as you want them to treat you. This is what the Law and the Prophets are all about.

Matthew 7:12 (CEV)

Lesson Goals

Understand that Jesus saw the crowd.

Understand that Jesus taught the crowd about the attitude of their hearts.

Understand that it is important to put into practice what we learn.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

Crowds followed Jesus much of the time. Jesus didn't ignore the crowds. Jesus did not simply send the crowds away. Matthew, the tax collector who followed Jesus, tells us that "Jesus saw the crowds." (Matthew 5:1 NIV) When Jesus saw the crowds, He climbed up a mountainside with His disciples, Matthew included. Then, from a point where they could all see Him and hear Him, Jesus began to teach.

Just choosing to follow Jesus doesn't make life simple and happy all the time. Jesus taught the people about this. Happiness usually has to do with things going your way. Jesus taught that there is a way to be satisfied no matter what happens. We can be satisfied because of our relationship with God.* Jesus said, "You are satisfied when you know that you need help spiritually . . . Heaven is yours! You can be satisfied, even when you are sad. You are satisfied when you are gentle and 'free from pride.'" (Matthew 5:5 NIV) You are friends of God and will be granted admission to the kingdom of heaven.* You are satisfied when you can't get enough of having your heart right with God, when you are pure from the inside out. Because of that, you will see Him one day! You are satisfied when you show mercy to others instead of treating them the way they deserve to be treated. You are satisfied when you share with others the peace that God has brought to your own heart.* Heaven is yours. You can even be satisfied 'when people make fun of you and hurt you because of Me.' (Matthew 5:11 NIV) Jump for joy! 'Your reward in heaven is great.'" (Matthew 5:12 NIV) Jesus kept teaching. He said, "You are salt and light. Shine! Light the world around you!"

Jesus explained that, even though simply obeying the rules doesn't get you to heaven, He didn't come to get rid of the rules that are found in the Law and in the Prophets, the Old Testament. Jesus is concerned more about **how** we keep the rules, not that we can check off a list of the rules we have kept. You see, Jesus is concerned with what is in our hearts, like our attitude about doing things. Jesus was turning things on their head! (Matthew 5:17-20)

Jesus continued teaching, "You've heard it said, 'Don't commit murder.' Well, I'm telling you not to even be angry with anyone. More than that, though, when you are at church offering a gift and remember someone is mad with you, your first priority is to get things right with that person. Then you can come back to church and offer your gift." (Matthew 5:21-24)

Jesus said, "You've heard it said, 'Don't commit adultery.' Well, I'm telling you not to even look at a woman the wrong way. What you think in your heart is as good as done." Jesus also said, "You've heard it said, 'Don't break your promises to God.' Well, I'm telling you not to make any promises at all. 'Just let your "Yes" mean "Yes." Let your "No" mean "No." Anything more than this comes from the evil one.'" (Matthew 5:37 NIV) You've heard it said, 'An eye must be put out for an eye. A tooth must be knocked out for a tooth.'" (Matthew 5:38 NIV) Well, I'm telling you not to fight at all. If someone hits you on the right cheek, turn your left cheek as well. You've also heard it said, 'Love your neighbor. Hate your enemy.'" (Matthew 5:43 NIV) Well, I'm telling you love your enemies and pray for them. Even sinners love those who love them." We are not to compare ourselves to others in this life we live for God. Compare yourself to God! Be like Him!

Application

We've looked at a lot of information from Jesus' sermon on the mountainside. Did you notice, though, that it all boils down to what's in your heart. If you love God and follow Him, then you have a desire to obey.

On the other hand, if you are unwilling to turn control of your life over to God, you may just be going through the motions of "doing all the right things." All of our "good things" are like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6) to God because we are depending on ourselves and not resting in Him.

You won't necessarily be in a crowd if you choose to follow the Lord. Matthew tells us to "enter God's kingdom through the narrow gate. The gate is large and the road is wide that lead to death and hell. Many people go that way. But the gate is small and the road is narrow that lead to life. Only a few people find it." (Matthew 7:13-14 NIV) Can I help you find the narrow gate today?

Believe it or not, Jesus didn't stop there! Jesus kept getting to the heart of the matter. He taught the people to be careful about their motives, or **why** they do things. We shouldn't do things to be seen. If that is why we are helping others then their praise is all the reward we will receive. Jesus expects that we will help the needy. He expects that we will pray. He even expects that we will fast, or go without eating, for the purpose of finding out what He wants for us. When we do those things, they should be done for God, not for others to see. Our prayers shouldn't be a bunch of meaningless words, hoping God will hear us because we have said a lot. God knows what we need long before we ask. Jesus taught the people to pray with a model that we now call "The Lord's Prayer." Meaninglessly repeating these words is no better than any other meaningless repetition. The model is to teach us **how** to pray, not necessarily **what** exact words we should pray. To pray, we should acknowledge God in heaven as our Father. That means we have a personal relationship with Him. We should be concerned about what He wants, more than what we want. It is okay to ask for what we need, including the forgiveness of sins. We can even pray for help not to fall into sin and we should also be willing to forgive others the way God has forgiven us. In fact, we are to treat others the way we want to be treated. (Matthew 7:12)

As Jesus continued even further, He encouraged the people not to store up things here on earth. Moths and rust destroy those kinds of things or robbers come in to steal them. We should be spending our time and money on things that will last eternally. God should be our focus, our master, not money because we can only have one master. We should not worry either, not about our lives, the food we will eat, what we will drink, or the clothes we will wear. Life is more important than all of that. Besides that, God takes care of the birds of the air that don't put crops away. He makes the wild grasses and flowers beautiful. We are worth much more to God than any of those things. Instead of worrying about those things, we should "put God's kingdom first. Do what He wants you to do. Then, all of those things will also be given to you." (Matthew 6:33 NIV)

Jesus ended by saying, "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and still don't do what I say?" (Luke 6:46 NIV) And then He told a story to explain what He meant. "There are people who listen and do what I say. 'They are like someone who builds a house. He digs down deep and sets it on solid rock. When a flood comes, the river rushes against the house. But the water can't shake it. The house is well built.'" (Luke 6:48 NIV) These are the people who put into practice what they have learned. There are others though, who listen to God's words but don't obey them. 'They are like someone who builds a house on soft ground instead of solid rock. The moment the river rushes against that house, it falls down. It is completely destroyed.'" (Luke 6:49 NIV)"

Zodhiates, Spiros Th.D. *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*. Chattanooga, TN. 1992. pp. 937, 867, 521.

Preparing for the Next Lesson

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant



Preschool Lesson

Teachers:

Bring a rock and some sand.

Do you know that Jesus told stories so that people could understand what He was teaching? One of the stories Jesus told was about a wise man and a foolish man.

The wise man, or the man who was smart and knew the right thing to do, built his house on the rock. It was a good foundation. One day a storm came. The rain came down. The water began to rise. The wind blew and blew. But this house didn't fall. It stood firm because it was built on the rock.

The foolish man, or the one who wasn't very smart and didn't know the right thing to do, built his house on the sand. One day a storm came. The rain came down. The water began to rise. The wind blew and blew. This house fell with a loud crash!

Do you remember me saying that Jesus told stories so that people could understand a lesson? Well, Jesus wasn't really talking about men building houses. That was the story part. The lesson part is about you and me. Jesus said, "everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man." (Matthew 7:24 NIV) It is important to listen in church and to read the Bible. It is also important to put into practice what you learn. What are some things that you know God wants you to do? (Encourage students to share.) Is that what you do?

Or do you do the things you know you shouldn't, because Jesus also said "everyone who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man." (Matthew 6:26 NIV) Was the foolish man successful? No! His house was destroyed by the storm.

Pray: God, please help me to be wise. To listen to Your word and to put it into practice. Amen.



Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Make cardboard rulers. Print the memory verse on the back of each ruler.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring rock candy and dirt cake for the snack.
- Make paper plate birds.
- Make posters from various verses from the Sermon on the Mount.
- Sing “This Little Light of Mine,” “The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock,” “Trust and Obey,” or another song related to the lesson.
- Find the Sea of Galilee on a map of Israel. Pay attention to the mountains that surround it.
- Dig Deeper: Review Matthew 5:21-48. You might even want to read it from the Message, or another version, as well. Discuss the command and Jesus’ take on each. Then read 1 Samuel 15:22.
- Dig Deeper: Read through the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-14). Discuss each section.
- Dig Deeper: Read Matthew 6:19-34. Talk about the importance of verse 33.

Treat others
as you want them
to treat you.

This is what the
Law and the Prophets
are all about.

Matthew 7:12

Trace the letters.

LISTEN

AND

OBEY

Focus on the Story

○
Story Title:

Scripture References:

Main Characters:

Story Summary:

When?

○
Where?

What?

How?

○



Word Search

K Y O H R W O S U T S U R T G
N N E A N D O N L T S O N O Y
O G D V S R E H T O T A E R T
W E V E R Y O N E T E S T L I
S D P E W O R G R R A Y W E H
O K L O W E H T H E I O I A N
U G E E O T H E L A W U O S I
R D A M O W E L M T E W O E S
M O S A I S E H E Y N A H P E
O D E T D A O E V O O N E E V
T N G T S U R W A U U T V O E
I S T H E P R O P H E T S P D
V H D E R E P T E N L H I L L
E Y S W A E P S T N D E D E W
S O Y E U R W O R D R M W M B

Find the underlined words from the memory verse in the puzzle above.

Treat others as you want them to treat you.
This is what the Law and the Prophets are all about.
Matthew 7:12



Word Search

K Y O H R W O S U T S U R T G
N N E A N D O N L T S O N O Y
O G D V S R E H T O T A E R T
W E V E R Y O N E T E S T L I
S D P E W O R G R R A Y W E H
O K L O W E H T H E I O I A N
U G E E O T H E L A W U O S I
R D A M O W E L M T E W O E S
M O S A I S E H E Y N A H P E
O D E T D A O E V O O N E E V
T N G T S U R W A U U T V O E
I S T H E P R O P H E T S P D
V H D E R E P T E N L H I L L
E Y S W A E P S T N D E D E W
S O Y E U R W O R D R M W M B

Find the underlined words from the memory verse in the puzzle above.

Treat others as you want them to treat you.
This is what the Law and the Prophets are all about.
Matthew 7:12



Preschool Word Search

R F I M A W I S E R E D
T A X C O L L E C T O R
H A R O B E Y T H E W S
R I V A N G I S E A Y S
J L A O L I V F N Y L S
Q J E S U S O N S E E O
R T O R E I V E N M R E
H D F O L H O U S E U S
M D I L T W E T E R T S
D I E S T O R Y O R B N
L A K I N Q U E S T S J
F O O L I S H V E A R N

JESUS

STORY

WISE

FOOLISH

HOUSE

OBEY



Preschool Word Search

R F I M A W I S E R E D
T A X C O L L E C T O R
H A R O B E Y T H E W S
R I V A N G I S E A Y S
J L A O L I V F N Y L S
Q J E S U S O N S E E O
R T O R E I V E N M R E
H D F O L H O U S E U S
M D I L T W E T E R T S
D I E S T O R Y O R B N
L A K I N Q U E S T S J
F O O L I S H V E A R N

JESUS

STORY

WISE

FOOLISH

HOUSE

OBEY