

A Study of the Sermon on the Mount
Matthew 5-7

**“Mouths, Eyes, Teeth, Backs, and
Cheeks” - Matthew 5:33-48**

Matthew 5:33-48

- 5:37: "Let your 'Yes,' be 'Yes' and your 'No,' 'No.'"
- 5:39: "Do not resist an evil person."
- 5:44: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven."
- 5.48: "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Who is Christ teaching here?

- People who lack true character
- People who twist their words – who do not mean what they say
- People who are obsessed about their own rights – who were selfish
- People who felt justified in their hatred of others
- People who did not think about God

Four traits of true character

- True character embraces the truth
- True character does not insist on “my rights”
- True character forgives enemies
- True character models itself after God

1. Embracing the truth

- The art of swearing
- The abuse of truth
- “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness.”
- Let your ‘Yes,’ be ‘Yes.’

2. Forgoing “rights”

- Eyes and teeth – Exodus 21:24
- Cheeks – the insulting slap – Matt. 5:11
- Tunics and Cloaks – Exodus 22:26
- One mile or two miles
- One who borrows – 2 Thess 3:6-15

When to resist the evil person

- Jesus answered him, “If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?” (John 18:23)
- Resist abuse when the Law of God is violated
- Resist abuse when innocent people suffer (Exodus 22:2)
- Resist abuse when people are being deprived of justice (Galatians 2:11 and Proverbs 31:8-9)
- Resist abuse when the truth is being perverted (Luke 22:36-38)

The follower of Christ

- Does not belong to himself, “For you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body” (1 Cor. 6:20).
- Prays for God’s kingdom to come, not “My kingdom come.”
- Is willing to forgo his own rights if God will receive more glory that way.

3. True character forgives

- The power of forgiveness – it touches those who will not be reached any other way
- Example the apostle Paul who witnessed the stoning of Stephen before his own conversion.
- Forgiveness frees us from further abuse.
- Forgiveness from the heart is an inner spiritual experience.

4. True character models itself after God

- Our one and only standard of behavior is Christ
- “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Col. 1:27)
- This is the glory of the Church, that Christ is in us transforming us into His image.

Colossians 1:24-27

...to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.