



Christian Mentoring

JOHN MALLISON MINISTRIES

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

The Christian Manifesto - *Matthew chapters 5 to 7*

In the body of Christ's teaching known as *The Sermon on the Mount*, recorded in Matthew's gospel chapters five to seven, our Lord Jesus Christ declares his radical intent for those who dedicate themselves to follow him. The great ethical principles Christ sets forth and their potential for affecting the behaviour of those who are prepared to take them seriously is breathtaking.

They are not new "laws" but clear directions to be obeyed on the basis of grace. The only hope of fulfilling this teaching is through the power of the indwelling Spirit which those who are "in Christ" receive when they truly own him as Saviour and Lord. Because those who seek to take Christ seriously are still flawed and wounded, the full observance of Christ's teachings are not attainable possibilities this side of eternity.

The following is a summary of most of the topics covered. Seek to identify the verses applicable for each. Note any topics not covered below.

- Humility
- Hunger for goodness
- Greed
- Being merciful
- "Purity" - honesty, sincerity
- Being peacemakers
- Suffering for the cause of good
- Handling slander, persecution and ill-treatment
- Being "salt" – being different – making a positive influence
- Being "light" – in the darkness of this world
- Doing good
- Practising what one teaches and preaches
- Managing anger
- Reconciliation
- Lust
- Being people of our word
- Turning the other cheek
- Love for enemies – forgiveness
- Giving to the needy
- Priority of prayer
- Fasting
- Integrity in handling money and possessions
- Anxiety – worrying
- Avoiding judgement of others
- Faith
- The way into the Kingdom
- Recognise false prophets

RESPONSE:

- In seeking to take seriously the teachings of Jesus Christ, which **three** of the above have you found to be the greatest challenge?
- In which ways do you think a mentoring relationship could assist you to apply even more fully this teaching of Jesus Christ in your own life and ministry?
- How important is modelling by us and other mature leaders in the process of taking Christ's teachings seriously? Think of some specific situations in which this modelling could occur, and what would be involved.

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