



Sermon on the Mount: From the Crowd to the Kingdom

Complete Study Course

What's Inside This Study

Introduction: When Jesus Sat Down to Teach (Matthew 5:1-2; 13:18-22)

Module 1: The Beatitudes – Kingdom Attitudes

Lesson 1: Attitude 1 – Are We Blessed? (Matthew 5:3-5)

Lesson 2: Attitude 2 – Are We Hanging Out With God? (Matthew 5:6-7)

Lesson 3: Attitude 3 – How Do We Work Our Relationships? (Matthew 5:9-12)

Lesson 4: Attitude 4 – We Are a Beam of Light (Matthew 5:13-16)

Module 2: The Higher Righteousness

Lesson 5: Religion vs. Relationship (Matthew 5:17-20)

Lesson 6: Thoughts – The Unseen Sin (Matthew 5:21-31)

Lesson 7: Actions 1 – The Hard Teachings of Jesus (Matthew 5:31-37)

Lesson 8: Actions 2 – The Challenge of Non-Retaliation (Matthew 5:38-48)

Module 3: Practical Righteousness

Lesson 9: Actions 3 – Are We Representing God Well? (Matthew 6:1-4)

Lesson 10: Actions 4 – Our Conversations with God (Matthew 6:5-15)

Lesson 11: Actions 5 – Fasting: The Hidden Discipline (Matthew 6:16-18)

Lesson 12: Do Not 1 – Stewardship, Not Ownership (Matthew 6:19-24)

Lesson 13: Do Not 2 – The Struggle to Release Tomorrow (Matthew 6:25-34)

Module 4: Relationships and Discernment

Lesson 14: Do Not 3 – Worry About Yourself, Not About Judging Others (Matthew 7:1-6)

Lesson 15: Do Pray – What Is God's Best Plan for Us? (Matthew 7:7-11)
Lesson 16: Do This – The Golden Rule, Lived Out (Matthew 7:12)
Lesson 17: Two Ways of Life – Anything Worth Doing Is Hard (Matthew 7:13-14)

Module 5: Warnings and Foundations

Lesson 18: False and True Teachers – Be Careful Who You Listen To (Matthew 7:15-20)
Lesson 19: True Way – Real Relationship with God (Matthew 7:21-23)
Lesson 20: Two Foundations – What Is Your Life Built On? (Matthew 7:24-27)
Conclusion: The Authority of Jesus (Matthew 7:28-29)

Introduction: When Jesus Sat Down to Teach

Scripture Focus: Matthew 5:1-2; Matthew 13:18-22 (NASB)

In this foundational opening lesson, Chris Pope begins a new series on one of the most transformative and challenging teachings of Jesus: the Sermon on the Mount. Chris explains the cultural and historical context of Jesus' teaching style, noting how rabbis in that day would sit down to teach their disciples with authority and intimacy. Here, Jesus ascends a mountainside, sits down, and begins to fellowship with His disciples through the Word of God.

Chris draws a parallel to the parable of the sower in Matthew 13:18-22, highlighting that the condition of our hearts determines how we receive the seeds of truth Jesus plants in this sermon. The Sermon on the Mount is not just a collection of beautiful ideals; it is a radical call to Kingdom living that confronts our pride, our anger, our worry, and our love for the world.

This introduction prepares listeners to walk through the Beatitudes, the Lord's Prayer, and the hard sayings of Jesus with open hearts, ready not just to hear, but to obey.

Module 1: The Beatitudes – Kingdom Attitudes

Lesson 1: Attitude 1 – Are We Blessed?

Scripture Focus: Matthew 5:3-5 (NASB)

In this opening lesson of the Sermon on the Mount series, Chris Pope asks a penetrating question: Are we truly blessed? He explores the first three Beatitudes from Matthew 5:3-5, where Jesus redefines what it means to be blessed in the Kingdom of God. Unlike the world's definition of blessing, wealth, power, and comfort, Jesus declares blessing upon the poor in spirit, those who mourn, and the meek.

Chris unpacks each attitude: poverty of spirit is the recognition of our spiritual bankruptcy before God; mourning is a godly sorrow over sin that leads to comfort; and meekness is strength surrendered to God's authority. These are not natural human inclinations; they are Kingdom attitudes that require the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

This lesson challenges us to examine our own hearts. Do we come to God with empty hands? Do we grieve over what breaks His heart? Do we trust Him enough to lay down our pride and power? True blessing is not found in having more, but in being more like Jesus.

Lesson 2: Attitude 2 – Are We Hanging Out With God?

Scripture Focus: Matthew 5:6-7 (NASB)

In this challenging and reflective lesson, Chris Pope continues through the Beatitudes by examining Matthew 5:6-7. He makes a simple but profound observation: we become like those we spend time with. If we surround ourselves with the world, we will adopt the world's values. But if we hunger and thirst for righteousness and extend mercy to others, it is evidence that we have been spending time with God.

Chris unpacks the fourth Beatitude: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." This is not a passive wish but an intense, desperate craving for God's will to be done in and through us. The fifth Beatitude follows naturally: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy." Those who have received God's mercy cannot help but extend it to others.

This lesson asks us to examine our spiritual appetites. What do we truly hunger for? Who are we spending our time with? If we are hanging out with God and Jesus, His righteousness and mercy will begin to shape everything about us.

Lesson 3: Attitude 3 – How Do We Work Our Relationships?

Scripture Focus: Matthew 5:9-12 (NASB)

In this practical and relational lesson, Chris Pope continues through the Beatitudes by examining Matthew 5:9-12. He addresses a question that touches every area of our lives: How do we work our relationships? Whether marriage, family, friendship, or church community, every relationship requires navigation, patience, and a willingness to learn from one another.

Jesus calls His followers to be peacemakers, not peacekeepers. Peacemakers actively pursue reconciliation, extend grace, and point others to the Prince of Peace. But Jesus also warns that

those who live righteously will face persecution, insults, and false accusations. Yet even in the midst of conflict and hardship, believers are called to rejoice, because their reward in heaven is great.

Chris challenges listeners to examine how they handle conflict, offense, and difficult people. Are we sowing peace or discord? Are we shrinking back from persecution or standing firm? Healthy relationships are not accidental; they require the heart of a peacemaker and the courage to suffer for righteousness' sake.

Lesson 4: Attitude 4 – We Are a Beam of Light

Scripture Focus: Matthew 5:13-16 (NASB)

In this illuminating and purpose-driven lesson, Chris Pope explores Matthew 5:13-16, where Jesus calls His followers the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Chris emphasizes that we are not meant to be hidden or silent. We are a beam of light, called to love, to live authentically, and to walk so closely with God that His presence shines through us.

Salt preserves and purifies, but if it loses its taste, it becomes useless. Light exposes darkness and guides the way, but a lamp under a basket helps no one. Jesus makes it clear that our good deeds are not for our own glory, but so that others may see and glorify our Father in heaven.

Chris challenges listeners to examine their witness. Are we living in a way that points others to God? Or have we allowed fear, compromise, or complacency to dim our light? The goal of the Christian life is not just personal holiness, but to walk with God in such a way that the world around us is drawn to Him.

Module 2: The Higher Righteousness

Lesson 5: Religion vs. Relationship

Scripture Focus: Matthew 5:17-20 (NASB)

In this eye-opening and freedom-filled lesson, Chris Pope tackles one of the most misunderstood passages in the Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5:17-20. Jesus declares that He did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but to fulfill them. Chris explains the critical difference between religion and relationship. Religion focuses on rule-keeping, outward

performance, and human effort. Relationship is rooted in knowing God, trusting His Son, and allowing His righteousness to transform us from the inside out.

The Old Testament was never meant to be a checklist of religious duties. It was always about a relationship with God. The Law revealed His character and our need for a Savior. Jesus came to fulfill what we could not, and His righteousness is now credited to all who believe. Chris warns against a superficial righteousness that only impresses people. The righteousness that exceeds the Pharisees is not about doing more, but about surrendering to the One who has done it all.

This lesson invites us to lay down religious performance and embrace the authentic, life-giving relationship with God that Jesus came to restore.

Lesson 6: Thoughts – The Unseen Sin

Scripture Focus: Matthew 5:21-31 (NASB)

In this penetrating and heart-searching lesson, Chris Pope explores Matthew 5:21-31, where Jesus moves beyond outward actions to expose the hidden sins of the heart. The religious leaders taught that murder was wrong, but Jesus says that even anger without cause makes us liable to judgment. The Law condemned adultery, but Jesus declares that lustful intent is already adultery in the heart.

Chris explains that sin begins not with the act, but with the thought. Unchecked anger, unforgiveness, lust, and contempt are the unseen sins that take root in our minds and eventually bear deadly fruit. Jesus is not adding new rules; He is revealing the true standard of God's righteousness. We cannot keep the Law perfectly, which drives us to our need for a Savior.

This lesson challenges us to examine our thought lives. Are we harboring anger toward a brother or sister? Are we entertaining lustful imaginations? The unseen sin is still sin, but the good news is that Jesus came to forgive and transform even the deepest places of our hearts. We are called not just to clean behavior, but to clean hearts.

Lesson 7: Actions 1 – The Hard Teachings of Jesus

Scripture Focus: Matthew 5:31-37 (NASB)

In this deeply personal and vulnerable lesson, Chris Pope enters the action phase of the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus moves from attitudes to actions. Chris opens up about his own journey, including the pain of divorce after 28 years. He shares this not to justify or dwell on the past, but to testify to the redemptive power of God. It is extremely important to know that he

remarried Teri, and they are now in a beautiful, God-filled marriage that testifies to grace, healing, and second chances.

Chris then walks through Matthew 5:31-37, where Jesus addresses divorce, oaths, and integrity. Jesus calls His followers to a higher standard, not just legal compliance, but heart-level faithfulness. Divorce was permitted under the Law, but Jesus points back to God's original design for marriage. He also commands honesty so complete that oaths become unnecessary; our "yes" should be yes and our "no" should be no.

This lesson is not about condemnation but about calling. Jesus raises the bar not to crush us, but to show us our need for His grace. And for those who have fallen short, there is hope. The same God who restored Chris and Teri can redeem any broken situation.

Lesson 8: Actions 2 – The Challenge of Non-Retaliation

Scripture Focus: Matthew 5:38-48 (NASB)

In this challenging and counter-cultural lesson, Chris Pope continues through the action phase of the Sermon on the Mount by examining Matthew 5:38-48. Jesus addresses the age-old principle of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," but then He raises the bar to a radical new standard: do not resist an evil person, turn the other cheek, go the extra mile, and love your enemies.

Chris speaks honestly about the reality of being hurt. It is hard to be hurt. When someone wounds us, our natural instinct is to retaliate, to seek revenge, to protect our pride. But Jesus calls His followers to a different way. He calls us to absorb the offense, to respond with grace, and to pray for those who persecute us. This is not weakness; it is supernatural strength.

Chris acknowledges that this teaching is impossible to live out in our own power. Only through the transforming work of the Holy Spirit can we love our enemies and bless those who curse us. But when we do, we reflect the character of our Father in heaven, who causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good alike. This lesson is an invitation to lay down our right to revenge and trust God with our hurts.

Module 3: Practical Righteousness

Lesson 9: Actions 3 – Are We Representing God Well?

Scripture Focus: Matthew 6:1-4 (NASB)

In this convicting and heart-searching lesson, Chris Pope continues the action phase of the Sermon on the Mount by examining Matthew 6:1-4. Jesus warns His disciples not to practice their righteousness before others to be noticed by them. Giving to the poor, praying, and fasting are good things, but when done for human approval, they lose their eternal reward.

Chris asks a penetrating question: Are we doing a good job representing God in all things? Not for our own glory. Not for fifteen minutes of fame. But always for His honor and kingdom. Jesus calls us to give in secret, to pray in private, and to serve without seeking recognition. The Father who sees what is done in secret will reward us openly.

This lesson challenges us to examine our motives. Do we serve God only when others are watching? Do we post our good deeds on social media for likes and validation? Or do we quietly, faithfully, and consistently represent Christ in the ordinary moments of life? True righteousness is not about being seen by people; it is about being faithful to the One who sees everything.

Lesson 10: Actions 4 – Our Conversations with God

Scripture Focus: Matthew 6:5-15 (NASB)

In this intimate and practical lesson, Chris Pope continues the action phase of the Sermon on the Mount by examining Matthew 6:5-15. Jesus teaches His disciples how to pray, warning against empty repetition and public displays meant to impress others. Instead, He invites us to enter our inner room, shut the door, and pray to our Father who sees in secret.

Chris emphasizes a crucial truth often overlooked in our prayer lives: we need to listen, speak, and listen again. Prayer is not a monologue; it is a conversation with the living God. Before we speak, we should quiet our hearts and listen for His voice. Then we pour out our hearts to Him. And then we wait and listen again for His direction, His comfort, and His peace.

Jesus gives His disciples a model for prayer, what we call the Lord's Prayer. It begins with worship, moves to surrender, includes petition for daily needs and forgiveness, and ends with a cry for deliverance. Chris challenges listeners to move beyond rushed, one-way prayers and into genuine, two-way conversations with their Heavenly Father.

Lesson 11: Actions 5 – Fasting: The Hidden Discipline

Scripture Focus: Matthew 6:16-18 (NASB)

In this focused and heart-revealing lesson, Chris Pope continues the action phase of the Sermon on the Mount by examining Matthew 6:16-18. Jesus turns His attention to the practice of fasting, a spiritual discipline often neglected or misunderstood. The religious leaders of Jesus' day would disfigure their faces and make themselves look miserable so others would admire their piety. But Jesus condemns this showmanship.

Chris explains that fasting is not about earning God's favor or impressing others. It is a private discipline between the believer and the Father. When we fast with the right motive, to humble ourselves, seek God's direction, or intercede for breakthrough, our Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward us openly.

Chris emphasizes that God knows our hearts. He is not impressed by outward performance but looks at the inward posture of humility and dependence. Fasting is not about convincing God to move; it is about aligning our hearts with His will and quieting our own appetites so we can hear His voice more clearly. This lesson challenges believers to rediscover the power and purpose of fasting as a hidden, sacred, and transformative practice.

Lesson 12: Do Not 1 – Stewardship, Not Ownership

Scripture Focus: Matthew 6:19-24 (NASB)

In this sobering and liberating lesson, Chris Pope continues through the Sermon on the Mount by examining Matthew 6:19-24. Jesus gives a clear command: Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth. Why? Because earthly treasures are temporary. They are vulnerable to moth, rust, and thieves. Everything we have will eventually pass away.

Chris explains that we are not owners of what God has entrusted to us; we are stewards. We cannot take any of it with us when we go. Our houses, our cars, our bank accounts, our possessions, all of it will be left behind. So Jesus redirects our focus: store up treasures in heaven, where they are eternal and secure.

But Jesus also warns that where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. Our spending, our saving, and our giving reveal what we truly value. We cannot serve two masters. We will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. Chris challenges listeners to examine their hearts. Are we living as stewards or as hoarders? Are we storing up eternal treasure or clinging to temporary things?

Lesson 13: Do Not 2 – The Struggle to Release Tomorrow

Scripture Focus: Matthew 6:25-34 (NASB)

In this timely and grace-filled lesson, Chris Pope continues through the Sermon on the Mount by examining Matthew 6:25-34. Jesus gives another clear command: Do not worry about your life. Do not worry about what you will eat or drink, or what you will wear. Life is more than food and the body more than clothing.

Chris acknowledges the struggle we all face. It is so hard to not worry and stress about tomorrow. Our minds naturally race ahead to future problems, financial pressures, health concerns, and family needs. But Jesus calls us to a different way. He points to the birds of the air, who do not sow or reap, yet our Heavenly Father feeds them. Are we not much more valuable than they?

Jesus also points to the lilies of the field, which do not labor or spin, yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Worry adds nothing to our lives. It cannot add a single hour to our lifespan. So Jesus commands us to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to us.

Chris challenges listeners to focus on today. Tomorrow has enough worries of its own. We are called to trust God one day at a time, laying our anxieties at His feet and believing that He is our Provider.

Module 4: Relationships and Discernment

Lesson 14: Do Not 3 – Worry About Yourself, Not About Judging Others

Scripture Focus: Matthew 7:1-6 (NASB)

In this convicting and introspective lesson, Chris Pope continues through the Sermon on the Mount by examining Matthew 7:1-6. Jesus gives a command that cuts against our natural instincts: Do not judge, so that you will not be judged. Chris explains that this is not a call to abandon all discernment, but a warning against the harsh, critical, and hypocritical judgment of others.

We often worry more about the speck in our brother's eye than the log in our own. Jesus calls us to first examine ourselves, to remove the plank from our own eye, and only then will we see clearly to help remove the speck from our brother's. Chris emphasizes that we are to worry about ourselves, our own sin, and our own relationship with God before we turn our attention to correcting others.

The judgment Jesus condemns is not all evaluation, but the prideful, self-righteous, and unforgiving spirit that overlooks our own faults while magnifying the faults of others. Chris challenges listeners to stop worrying about what everyone else is doing wrong and start

focusing on our own hearts. When we do, we will find more grace, more humility, and more love for those who struggle just like us.

Lesson 15: Do Pray – What Is God's Best Plan for Us?

Scripture Focus: Matthew 7:7-11 (NASB)

In this encouraging and hope-filled lesson, Chris Pope continues through the Sermon on the Mount by examining Matthew 7:7-11. Jesus gives a clear and powerful command: Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. Chris poses two essential questions: What is God's plan for us? And what is the best life that He has for us?

Jesus uses the illustration of an earthly father giving good gifts to his children. If flawed human parents know how to give good things to their children, how much more will our Heavenly Father give what is good to those who ask Him? Chris explains that God's plan for us is not to withhold, harm, or frustrate us. His plan is good, pleasing, and perfect. The best life He has for us is found not in chasing worldly success, but in seeking His kingdom, asking for His guidance, and knocking on the doors He wants us to enter.

Chris challenges listeners to pray with boldness, persistence, and trust. God is not a reluctant giver. He is a generous Father who delights to bless His children. So ask. Seek. Knock. And watch what the Father does.

Lesson 16: Do This – The Golden Rule, Lived Out

Scripture Focus: Matthew 7:12 (NASB)

In this heartfelt and practical lesson, Chris Pope arrives at one of the most well-known yet deeply powerful verses in all of Scripture: Matthew 7:12, often called the Golden Rule. "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets."

Chris shares that this verse was his mother's favorite. She didn't just preach it; she lived it. Every day, in big ways and small, she modeled what it means to treat others with the same kindness, grace, and respect that she desired for herself. Chris reflects on how her life was a living commentary on this simple, profound command.

Jesus sums up the entire Old Testament ethical teaching in this one sentence. It is not a suggestion; it is the way of the Kingdom. Chris challenges listeners to stop waiting for others to treat them well first. Instead, we are called to take the initiative, to love first, to serve first, and to

give grace first. This lesson is an invitation to honor the legacy of a mother who walked the walk and to follow her example by putting the Golden Rule into daily practice.

Lesson 17: Two Ways of Life – Anything Worth Doing Is Hard

Scripture Focus: Matthew 7:13-14 (NASB)

In this challenging and clarifying lesson, Chris Pope examines Matthew 7:13-14, where Jesus presents two paths: the wide gate that leads to destruction and the narrow gate that leads to life. Chris makes a powerful observation: anything worth doing is hard. The easy path requires no effort, no sacrifice, and no self-denial. But it leads to destruction. The narrow way is difficult, it requires intentionality, discipline, and daily choices to follow Christ.

Chris emphasizes that entering the narrow gate is a choice. God does not force anyone to walk the hard road. He sets before us life and death, blessing and curse, and calls us to choose life. The broad way is crowded. It is the path of least resistance, the way of the world, the way of our flesh. But the narrow way is the way of Jesus. It is counter-cultural, costly, and sometimes lonely. Yet it leads to life, abundant and eternal.

This lesson challenges listeners to examine which path they are on. Are we drifting down the wide gate with the crowd, or are we intentionally pressing through the narrow gate? The choice is ours. And anything worth doing is worth the effort.

Module 5: Warnings and Foundations

Lesson 18: False and True Teachers – Be Careful Who You Listen To

Scripture Focus: Matthew 7:15-20 (NASB)

In this sobering and discerning lesson, Chris Pope examines Matthew 7:15-20, where Jesus issues a stern warning: "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves." Chris emphasizes the critical importance of being careful who is teaching us and what we are hearing. Not everyone who claims to speak for God actually does.

Jesus gives a clear test: you will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles. A good tree bears good fruit, and a bad tree bears bad fruit. Chris explains that false teachers may look like sheep on the outside, but their true nature is revealed over time by the fruit of their lives and doctrine. Do they point people to Jesus or to themselves? Do they produce righteousness or rebellion? Do they build up the body or tear it apart?

Chris challenges listeners to be discerning, to test what they hear against Scripture, and to examine the fruit of those who claim to speak for God. We are not called to be suspicious of everyone, but we are called to be wise, prayerful, and grounded in the Word so that we are not led astray.

Lesson 19: True Way – Real Relationship with God

Scripture Focus: Matthew 7:21-23 (NASB)

In this sobering and searching lesson, Chris Pope examines Matthew 7:21-23, where Jesus delivers one of the most startling warnings in all of Scripture. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter."

Chris explains that there is a profound difference between religious activity and real relationship with God. Jesus describes people who prophesy, cast out demons, and perform miracles in His name, yet He declares, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness." These are not unbelievers; they are people who did impressive things for God but never truly knew Him.

This leads Chris to ask: What is it truly like to be the Bride of Christ? A bride does not merely perform duties for her groom; she knows him intimately, loves him deeply, and longs to be with him. Our relationship with God is not about checking religious boxes. It is about knowing and being known by the One who gave His life for us.

Chris challenges listeners to move beyond superficial faith and pursue authentic intimacy with Jesus. Because on that final day, our credentials will not matter. Only one thing will: Does He know us?

Lesson 20: Two Foundations – What Is Your Life Built On?

Scripture Focus: Matthew 7:24-27 (NASB)

In this concluding and foundational lesson of the Sermon on the Mount series, Chris Pope examines Matthew 7:24-27, where Jesus presents the parable of two builders. One builds his house on the rock; the other builds on sand. Both face the same storms of life: rain, floods, and winds. But only one house stands.

Chris asks two essential questions: What is our foundation? What do we build our foundation on? The difference between the wise builder and the foolish builder is not activity, it is

obedience. Both heard Jesus' words. But only one put them into practice. Hearing without doing is like building on sand. It looks good for a season, but when the storms come, it collapses.

Jesus is not offering suggestions; He is calling us to build our entire lives on the solid rock of His Word. Chris challenges listeners to examine their own foundations. Are we building on the shifting sands of opinion, feelings, or cultural trends? Or are we building on the unchanging truth of God's Word? The storms are coming. Only one foundation will hold.

Conclusion: The Authority of Jesus

Scripture Focus: Matthew 7:28-29 (NASB)

In this concluding lesson of the Sermon on the Mount series, Chris Pope reflects on the impact of Jesus' teaching and the response of those who heard Him. Matthew 7:28-29 records that when Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching, because He was teaching them as one who had authority, not as their scribes.

Chris wraps up the series by highlighting the unique authority of Jesus. The scribes quoted other rabbis and traditions. But Jesus spoke with His own authority. He didn't say, "Thus says the Lord." He said, "Truly, truly, I say to you." He was and is the living Word of God in the flesh.

Throughout this series, Chris has walked through the Beatitudes, the call to be salt and light, the higher righteousness, the commands on prayer, fasting, worry, judgment, and the two foundations. Now, Chris challenges listeners to not just admire Jesus' teaching, but to submit to His authority. The Sermon on the Mount is not a suggestion; it is a summons to a new way of living under the reign of Christ. May we be hearers and doers of His Word.

Final Course Test

Instructions: Choose the best answer for each question based on the teachings in this course.

1. In the Introduction, Chris Pope describes how Jesus sat down to teach, unlike the scribes who quoted other authorities. What does this cultural context reveal about the nature of Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount?

- A) Jesus taught while walking through crowded streets so that as many people as possible could hear Him.
- B) Jesus sat down to teach with authority and intimacy, signifying a formal teaching session with His disciples that came directly from His own authority, not from quoting other rabbis.
- C) Jesus stood on a high mountain to demonstrate His superiority over the Old Testament prophets.
- D) Jesus taught in the temple courts to challenge the authority of the scribes and Pharisees.

2. In Lesson 3 (Attitude 3), Chris Pope explains the meaning of "blessed are the meek" from Matthew 5:5. According to the lesson, what is the biblical definition of meekness and why is it considered strength rather than weakness?

- A) Meekness is refusing to defend yourself or speak up in any situation, allowing others to take advantage of you at all times.
- B) Meekness is pretending not to be angry when you are, in order to appear spiritual and holy to other people.
- C) Meekness is strength under control, power surrendered to God's authority, demonstrated by Jesus who could call legions of angels to rescue Him but chose the cross instead.
- D) Meekness is being naturally quiet and shy in personality, avoiding any form of confrontation or difficult conversation.

3. Lesson 4 (Attitude 4) focuses on Matthew 5:13-16, where Jesus calls His followers the salt of the earth and the light of the world. According to Chris, what is the spiritual danger of salt losing its taste?

A) Salt that loses its taste can be re-seasoned with prayer and fasting; believers who stumble can restore their witness through increased religious activity.

B) Salt that loses its taste becomes completely useless and is thrown out; believers who lose their distinctiveness as witnesses become ineffective for the Kingdom of God.

C) Salt that loses its taste can be mixed with other spices to regain flavor; believers who compromise should surround themselves with stronger Christians.

D) Salt that loses its taste still has some value for cooking; believers who fall into sin are still useful to God in limited ways despite their compromise.

4. In Lesson 5 (Religion vs. Relationship), what is the primary difference Jesus is teaching in Matthew 5:17-20 between the righteousness of the Pharisees and the righteousness required for the Kingdom?

A) The Pharisees were wrong about everything, and Jesus came to completely destroy the Old Testament Law and start over with something new.

B) The Pharisees focused on outward rule-keeping and religious performance to impress people, but true righteousness begins with the heart and a genuine relationship with God.

C) The Pharisees were not religious enough, so Jesus required believers to do even more religious rituals than they did.

D) The Pharisees were correct in everything they taught, and Jesus simply wanted His disciples to follow their example more faithfully.

5. Lesson 6 (Thoughts: The Unseen Sin) examines Matthew 5:21-31. What deeper truth is Jesus revealing about sin and righteousness?

A) As long as you do not physically murder someone or commit physical adultery, your thought life does not matter to God.

B) Sin begins in the heart and mind before it becomes an outward action; even anger without cause and lustful thoughts make us guilty before a holy God.

C) Only the outward actions of murder and adultery are sinful; thoughts and feelings are not subject to God's judgment.

D) Jesus was adding new commandments to make the Law even harder to keep, so that everyone would give up trying.

6. In Lesson 8 (Actions 2 – The Challenge of Non-Retaliation), Jesus commands His followers to love their enemies and pray for those who persecute them. According to Chris, how is this kind of love possible for ordinary believers?

A) It is not actually possible; Jesus was giving an ideal that no one can ever achieve.

B) It is possible only for those who are naturally gentle and passive in their personality.

C) It requires the supernatural strength of the Holy Spirit working in and through the believer.

D) It becomes easier over time as you practice ignoring your feelings and pretending to love people you dislike.

7. In Lesson 10 (Actions 4 – Our Conversations with God), Chris emphasizes an often overlooked aspect of prayer. What three-part rhythm does he encourage believers to practice when they pray?

A) Ask, believe, receive.

B) Worship, confess, thank.

C) Listen, speak, listen.

D) Read, memorize, recite.

8. Lesson 13 (Do Not 2 – The Struggle to Release Tomorrow) examines Matthew 6:25-34.

According to Chris, why does Jesus tell us not to worry about tomorrow?

- A) Because tomorrow will never come, so worrying is a complete waste of mental energy.
- B) Because God is not actually concerned with our daily needs; we must provide for ourselves.
- C) Because worry is a sin that cannot be forgiven, so believers must avoid it at all costs.
- D) Because worrying adds nothing to our lives, and our Heavenly Father who feeds the birds will also provide for us when we seek His kingdom first.

9. In Lesson 19 (True Way – Real Relationship with God), Jesus warns that some people will call Him "Lord, Lord" and even perform miracles in His name, yet He will declare, "I never knew you." What is the central issue Jesus is exposing in Matthew 7:21-23?

- A) These people were unbelievers who never claimed to follow Jesus at all.
- B) These people had religious activity and impressive spiritual gifts, but they never had a genuine, intimate relationship of knowing and being known by Jesus.
- C) These people committed hidden sins that were worse than the sins of others, so they were disqualified from the Kingdom.
- D) These people believed in the wrong doctrine about Jesus, even though their hearts were sincere.

10. In the Conclusion (Lesson 20 and Matthew 7:24-27), Jesus tells the parable of two builders. According to Chris, what is the single difference between the wise builder whose house survived the storm and the foolish builder whose house collapsed?

- A) The wise builder had more faith than the foolish builder.
- B) The wise builder prayed more often and attended church more regularly.
- C) The wise builder heard Jesus' words and put them into practice; the foolish builder heard but did not do.
- D) The wise builder built his house in a different location where the storms were less severe.

Answer Key

1. B – Jesus sat down to teach with authority and intimacy, signifying a formal teaching session with His disciples that came directly from His own authority, not from quoting other rabbis. (Introduction)
2. C – Meekness is strength under control, power surrendered to God's authority, demonstrated by Jesus who could call legions of angels to rescue Him but chose the cross instead. (Lesson 3)
3. B – Salt that loses its taste becomes completely useless and is thrown out; believers who lose their distinctiveness as witnesses become ineffective for the Kingdom of God. (Lesson 4)
4. B – The Pharisees focused on outward rule-keeping and religious performance to impress people, but true righteousness begins with the heart and a genuine relationship with God. (Lesson 5)
5. B – Sin begins in the heart and mind before it becomes an outward action; even anger without cause and lustful thoughts make us guilty before a holy God. (Lesson 6)
6. C – It requires the supernatural strength of the Holy Spirit working in and through the believer. (Lesson 8)
7. C – Listen, speak, listen. (Lesson 10)
8. D – Because worrying adds nothing to our lives, and our Heavenly Father who feeds the birds will also provide for us when we seek His kingdom first. (Lesson 13)
9. B – These people had religious activity and impressive spiritual gifts, but they never had a genuine, intimate relationship of knowing and being known by Jesus. (Lesson 19)

10. C – The wise builder heard Jesus' words and put them into practice; the foolish builder heard but did not do. (Conclusion)

Conclusion: He Is Our Rock

Thank you for journeying through the Sermon on the Mount with us. We hope this study has moved you from merely admiring the teachings of Jesus to submitting to His authority as Lord. The crowds were amazed because He taught as one who had authority, not as the scribes. May you be not only a hearer of His Word, but a doer. And may the house of your life stand firm when the storms come, because it is built on the solid rock of Christ.

Connect with Chris Pope

If this study has blessed you or if you have questions about the material, we would love to hear from you.

Email: cpope@mydrsm.com

Website: mydrsm.com

Follow Us: Stay connected on social media for more Deeper Roots biblical teaching and encouragement.

Support This Ministry

This study guide is made available through the generous support of people like you. If you would like to help us continue producing high quality biblical resources, please consider a donation at our website.

Everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7:24 (NASB)
