

The
SERMON
on the
MOUNT

MATTHEW 5-7



TERM 1 STUDIES

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Personal Devotions

Use this book to help you read your Bible every day. You will find a guide that will help you read through scriptures related to our sermon series, as well as some additional readings on various days. Scribble down your thoughts and questions and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by his Spirit, through his Word.

Community Groups

Take this booklet with you to your Community Group each week. Our study material is based on the Sunday Bible talks and have been provided for each week, so you could use this space to write down comments, questions, and prayer points from the study that week.

Church

Bring the booklet along to church or download a copy to your iPad! Each week there is space in this booklet for sermon notes. Engaging with the sermon and jotting down notes is an awesome way to retain God's word and the lessons each week.

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The Sermon on the Mount - Overview

Our vision at St Faith's is to see a Northern Beaches that knows Jesus by making disciples who grow to maturity in Christ for God's glory.

Community Groups are a massive part of the life of our church here at St Faith's. If you're new among us or from another church, maybe you know them as Bible Study Groups, Growth Groups or simply Small Groups – that's what we're talking about. Smaller groups, that enable spiritual growth, by studying God's word and prayer, and doing it in community together – here at St Faith's we call them Community Groups.

We're committed to being people **who are growing towards spiritual maturity in Christ**, knowing that spiritual maturity comes not with age or stage or life, but by the work of God's Spirit. Community Groups are a key part of seeing this happen.

But this isn't something new, made up by the modern church. This is what Jesus taught his first disciples to keep on doing in life. This was to be their very purpose – to make disciples who grow to maturity in Christ. Jesus said,

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

(Matt 28:19-20)

These words of Jesus recorded at the end of Matthew's Gospel, to make disciples by teaching them to obey everything Jesus commanded, take us straight back to the words of Jesus toward the beginning of Matthew's Gospel – what did Jesus teach? What did Jesus command? What did Jesus expect from his disciples?

So this term, we're heading back to the start of Matthew's Gospel where we'll be hearing the words, teachings and commands of Jesus from Matthew chapters 5-7 – a part of the Bible affectionately known as the '**Sermon on the Mount.**'

You see, when Jesus called his first disciples in these early chapters, he started teaching them right away that they should expect to have an impact in the world. In fact, he informed them that this was the reason he'd called them, saying, "You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world." Imagine this for a moment – they'd only just met Jesus and there was nothing particularly special about them - they were just common people. They weren't particularly intelligent, or strong, or well-educated, or well-organized. Not all that "holy." In fact, they were people a bit like us.

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus outlines the mission of those first disciples, which is ours too - showing the impact his disciples were expected to have and how to live a life that does, in fact,

make a difference for God in the world. These chapters serve as an explanation of the mission Jesus calls us to – to be salt and light in the world. But maybe even more powerful is that these words of Jesus also show us how to get on with that mission in our lives. God’s word is powerful. Jesus’ words are to be obeyed and if a person reads these words and by the power of the Holy Spirit puts them into practice, he or she will be the ‘salt’ and ‘light’ Jesus intends.

What others have said about Jesus’ famous sermon....

John Stott

*The Sermon on the Mount has a **unique fascination**. It seems to present **the quintessence of the teaching of Jesus**. It makes goodness attractive. It shames our shabby performance. It engenders dreams of a better world.*

*The Sermon on the Mount is probably **the best-known part of the teaching of Jesus**, though arguably it is the least understood, and certainly it is the least obeyed. It is the **nearest thing to a manifesto that he ever uttered**, for it is his own description of what he wanted his followers to be and to do. To my mind no two words sum up its intention better, or indicate more clearly its challenge to the modern world, **than the expression ‘Christian counter-culture’**.*

*To me the key text of the Sermon on the Mount is 6:8: **‘Do not be like them.’***

Martin Luther

*The command to you is not to crawl into a corner or into the desert, but to run out, if that is where you have been, and to **offer your hands and your feet and your whole body**, and to wager everything you have and can do. What is required is a hunger and thirst for righteousness that can **never be curbed or stopped or sated**, one that looks for nothing and cares for nothing except the accomplishment and maintenance of the right, despising everything that hinders this end.*

Oswald Chambers

*The Sermon on the Mount is not a set of principles to be obeyed apart from identification with Jesus Christ. The Sermon on the Mount is a **statement of the life** we will live when the Holy Spirit is getting his way with us.*

Leon Morris

*The teaching in this sermon certainly sets a high standard. If we take it seriously **we realise that we cannot attain it and therefore cannot merit salvation**. It is the end of the way of law and drives us to seek salvation in Christ. But when we have received this salvation as God’s free gift, **the sermon shows us how we should live** in the service of our gracious God. It shows us what life is like in the kingdom of God. **The sermon removes all complacency**. The follower of Christ cannot say, “I have*

done all I should; I am the complete servant of God.” No matter how far we have gone along the Christian road the sermon tells us that there is more ahead of us.

Our hope and prayer is that this term, as a community of believers here at St Faith’s, Jesus’ words will truly capture our hearts, reshape our convictions, and move us in action to personally ‘shine like light’ to those around us. That together we will live lives that demonstrate the transforming work God has done in us so that people would “see our good deeds and praise our Father in heaven” (Matt 5:16).

May God be glorified as we do this together at St Faith’s in 2024.

In Christ,

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Study #1: A Christian's Character

Matthew 5:1-12

Study Focus:

- Jesus calls his followers to be a part of a kingdom that is very different from this world and lays down the expectations he has of those who are part of it.

Daily Bible Readings:

- Monday: Matt 5:1-4, Psalm 34
- Tuesday: Matt 5:5-7, Psalm 37
- Wednesday: Matt 5:8-9, Psalm 24
- Thursday: Matt 5:10-12, 1 Peter 3:13-17
- Friday: Matt 5:1-12

To kick off: What character traits are seen as valuable in our society today? Why do you think society values these things?

The passage we're reading today is often referred to as 'The Beatitudes' (ie. the blessings of Jesus) and it kicks off Jesus' famous 'Sermon on the Mount'. John Stott comments that,

*"The beatitudes set forth the balanced and variegated character of Christian people. These are not eight separate and distinct groups of disciples, some of whom are meek, while others are merciful and yet others are called upon to endure persecution. They are rather eight qualities of the same group who at one and the same time are meek and merciful, poor in spirit and pure in heart, mourning and hungry, peacemakers and persecuted."**

So let's have a look at these qualities and consider Jesus' expectations of those who follow him.

Read Matthew 5:1-12.

Jot down anything that stands out to you or questions you might have from the text.

1. Who is Jesus teaching in this sermon (cf 5:2; 7:28-29) and what has he already been teaching about (cf 4:23)?

* Stott, J. R. W. (1985). *The message of the Sermon on the mount (Matthew 5-7): Christian counter-culture* (p. 31). Inter-Varsity Press.

2. What does it mean to be 'poor in spirit' (v3)? Why would this be necessary to enter the kingdom of heaven?
3. Why is it so difficult for us to admit our spiritual poverty before God and one another?
4. Looking at verse 4. What types of situations do we mourn over today? Do we mourn over our sin and the sin of our world? How? How does Jesus comfort us?
5. Why do you think the 'meek' will inherit the earth (v5)? (look also at Psalm 37:11; Zeph 3:12 to help get an understanding of who Jesus was talking about).
6. Do you think being hungry and thirsty for righteousness and showing mercy (v 6-7) could be connected? If so, why and how?
7. How can we be 'pure in heart' (v8 & Matt 15:19)? What does it mean to 'see' God?

8. What do you think Jesus means by a 'peacemaker'? Do you ever consider yourself a peacemaker? Think of some examples if appropriate.
9. The last blessing relates to persecution (v10). What is that blessing and how is that an encouragement to you in the midst of persecution? How does Jesus call us to respond (v12)?

Wrap it up...

10. How do these character traits differ from what you discussed in the kick off question at the start of this study? Why are they so different from what the world tells us?
11. What is one encouragement or challenge you've taken away from God's word today?

PRAYER

- Pray and ask God to help you be obedient in the way that Jesus calls us to live as his followers, being radically different from this world.
- Pray that in Christians 'thirsting for righteousness and showing mercy', God would shine brightly through us as lights in this dark world.
- Commit that one encouragement or challenge (Q11) to God personally and ask for God's help to put it into practice in your life.

Prayer Points / Sermon Notes / PEDALS! (pg38)

Study #2: A Christian's Influence

Matthew 5:13-20

Study Focus:

- *Jesus calls his disciples to be salt and light in the world – to influence the world in such a way that God would be glorified through them.*

Daily Bible Readings:

- Monday: Matt 5:13
- Tuesday: Matt 5:14-16
- Wednesday: Isaiah 42:5-7
- Thursday: Matt 5:17-18
- Friday: Matt 5:19-20

To kick off: If the beatitudes (5:1-12) describe the essential character of disciples of Jesus, the salt and light metaphors in today's passage indicate something of their influence for good in the world. Discuss together examples of how Christian influence (individuals or organisations) has brought good to the world.

Read Matthew 5:13-16.

Jot down anything that stands out to you or questions you might have from the text.

1. Jesus begins this passage with an emphasis on "you" (ie. "you and no-one else"). At that time, who might have thought they were God's agents on earth? (cf Matt 16:6 & 12).

 2. In the first century, salt was used as a preservative which was rubbed into meat to slow decay. With this in mind, what does Jesus expect his followers to achieve in the world? What might this look like? Give some examples.

 3. What things might make Christians less 'salty'? How can this be avoided?
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4. Jesus' second metaphor relates to light (v14-16). In your own words, how would you explain Jesus' purpose in using this here?
5. How are Jesus' disciples the 'light of the world'? How have they become the light? (cf Matt 4:16, Isaiah 42:6).
6. Light is something that is seen. What should others see in the followers of Jesus (v16)? What are the tensions we might feel, as Christians, regarding this?
7. Where are you responsible for being a 'light' as a follower of Jesus? Discuss together some of the challenges and some of the wins you've had.

Read Matthew 5:17-20.

8. Some have said that Jesus was a false teacher who discarded the Old Testament. How does Jesus answer this charge?
9. What standard of righteousness does Jesus require (v20)? Discuss this together.

Wrap it up...

10. Are you personally ready to commit yourself afresh to being the 'light of the world'? What steps do you need to take in this?

11. As a Community Group, are there ways that you can serve together to be salt and light in the world? Throw around a few ideas.

PRAYER

- Pray that God's Spirit would strengthen us for the task of being 'salt and light' in the world.
- Pray that God would provide opportunities for us to demonstrate righteous living, so that people might see these good deeds and glorify God in heaven.
- Pray for **'Open House'** this week at church as visitors come and check out church. Pray that God's people would be salt and light in welcoming newcomers.

Prayer Points / Sermon Notes / PEDALS! (pg38)

Study #3: A Christian's Righteousness Matthew 5:21-32

Study Focus:

- *As salt and light in the world, Jesus calls his disciples to a new kind of righteousness with regards to murder (anger) and adultery (lust).*

Daily Bible Readings:

- Monday: Matt 5:21-22, James 3:6
- Tuesday: Matt 5:23-26, Matt 18:15-17
- Wednesday: Matt 5:27-30, Prov 6:25
- Thursday: Matt 5:31-32, Deut 24:1-4
- Friday: Matt 5:13-16

To kick off: What are some things that make you angry (it's confession time!)? Are there things that people do that just simply annoy you? Are there different types of anger? Discuss together.

Read Matthew 5:21-26

Jot down anything that stands out to you or questions you might have from the text.

1. Jesus says that murder and anger will result in the same punishment (v21-22). How are the two related?

2. "Brother" was Jesus' term for one of his followers. Amongst Christians, what is Jesus saying is not acceptable behaviour (cf also 1 John 3:15)?

3. Why do you think this is so important to Jesus? How do verses 23-26 emphasise this importance?

4. Is there someone who might be angry with you? Is there someone you should speak to because they have upset you? What might be a way forward from what we have read in this passage?

Read Matthew 5:27-30

Jesus now moves to address another important relationship within the new community of believers – appropriate, God-honouring, sexual relationships between men and women.

5. What, according to Jesus, is the true intention of God's command regarding adultery (v28)?
6. Jesus gives some very graphic examples of how one might stop lust in its tracks (see also Matt 18:8-9). Is he being literal here and why does he give such extreme examples?
7. What we look at feeds our thoughts and imaginations. How would taking Jesus' warning here seriously impact the things you currently watch or look at? (eg. movies, social media, pornography, what we wear and how we behave.) Discuss together.
8. What are some practical ways that we can encourage each other to be godly in this area of our lives, while also reminding each other of God's mercy and forgiveness when we stumble?

Read Matthew 5:31-32

The topic of divorce is a big and sensitive topic. We are not looking at what the whole Bible has to say on this, rather we're considering why Jesus raises the topic here, particularly pointing at the ungodly behaviour of men abandoning their wives through divorce.

9. Divorce often follows adultery. In Jesus' day, the Old Testament permission of divorce (see Deut 24:1-4) was used by men loosely as a licence to commit adultery, by simply changing wives. What does Jesus say about this in these short verses?

10. In Jesus' day, the divorced woman would need to remarry because a single woman would have no means of support (only men, in general, had paid work). How does this help explain Jesus' words?

11. For the most part, our world does not have any problem with lustful, adulterous behaviour. In fact, it even celebrates, rather than condemns, such behaviour. So as Jesus' followers, practically, how can we help one another to live differently to our world in these two vital areas?

PRAYER

- Pray for God's protection over Christian marriages in our church. Ask that God would strengthen marriages and give godliness and self-control.
- Pray that God's Spirit would convict of sin and lead his people to a place of repentance and deep trust in his promise to forgive and restore in the areas where we may have failed.
- Pray that our behaviour and 'witness' in these areas of life might be 'salt and light' to the world around us.
- Pray for the Webster family - our CMS link missionaries in Namibia.

Prayer Points / Sermon Notes / PEDALS! (pg38)

Study #4: A Christian's Righteousness Matthew 5:33-48

Study Focus:

- *As salt and light in the world, Jesus calls his disciples to a new kind of righteousness with regard to speech and loving others.*

Daily Bible Readings:

- Monday: Matt 5:33-36, James 5:12
- Tuesday: Matt 5:38-42, Luke 6:27-31
- Wednesday: Matt 5:43-45
- Thursday: Matt 5:46-48
- Friday:

To kick off: Can you think of a time when someone lied to you, or deliberately misled you? How did you feel? What was your reaction? Why?

So far in our reading of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus' instructions to his disciples on how they should live are contrasted with the actions of the 'hypocrites' and how they distort God's law to serve their own needs. Jesus' teaching in this section continues in that vein with a particular focus on oaths, revenge, and love for your enemies.

Read Matthew 5:33-37

1. For some context here, check out Matt 23:16-22. The Pharisees taught a complex system about when an 'oath' was binding and when it wasn't. Why do you think Jesus teaches against oaths here?

2. Some groups have taken this teaching to mean that they must not 'swear an oath' in court (to tell the truth etc). Is this a right application of Jesus' words? Why or why not?

Read Matthew 5:38-42

3. In your own words, how would you summarise what Jesus commands his followers to do here?

4. Think of some examples in Jesus' own life where he demonstrated this. Discuss together.

5. How might these verses apply to us today?

6. Some have argued that this passage means that Christians cannot join armed forces and must simply behave as 'doormats' to others. Do you think this is correct? Why/why not? How do we balance that tension?

Read Matthew 5:43-48

7. In the midst of persecution or personal attack, whose behaviour are Jesus' followers called to imitate (cf v45, 48)?

 8. In what specific ways are Jesus' disciples called to 'love our enemies' (see also Luke 6:27-28)?
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9. Are you conscious of particular 'enemies' towards whom you need to take this sort of action? What would it mean for you to put Jesus' words into practice?

10. How would behaving in the way Jesus commands here enable his followers to be 'salt and light' (Matt 5:16) in their communities?

PRAYER

- Spend some time personally reflecting on who your neighbour is (literally or figuratively) and spend time considering how to love them. Pray for them.
- Thank God for Jesus' perfect example of keeping his word, turning the other cheek, loving his neighbour and praying for his enemies.
- Pray for our SRE teacher at Cromer Campus, Phil Schouten.

Prayer Points / Sermon Notes / PEDALS! (pg38)

Study #5: A Christian's Religion

Matthew 6:1-18

Study Focus:

- *Jesus calls us to live true and authentic lives, remembering the One who sees and knows all – even what's hidden in our hearts.*

Daily Bible Readings:

- Monday: Matt 6:1-4, Col 3:23-24
- Tuesday: Matt 6:5-6, Luke 18:10-14
- Wednesday: Matt 6:7-8, 1 Kings 18:26-29
- Thursday: Matt 6:9-15, Matt 18:21-35
- Friday: Matt 6:16-18, Isaiah 58:5

To kick off: How does society today view religious people? How do you think that has changed over time? In what ways can the behaviour of religious people impact that view – positively or negatively?

In this section Jesus moves from teaching related to normal daily life, to address matters that relate to our 'religious' life (eg. giving, prayer, fasting). It is still very much, for Jesus, part of a disciple's fundamental righteousness of life.

Read Matthew 6:1-18.

Jot down anything that stands out to you or questions you might have from the text.

Giving

1. What danger does Jesus warn his disciples against (v1)?

2. Jesus gives two examples of how to give to those in need (v2-4). What are they and which should Jesus' followers do? Why?

3. How might we be tempted to seek the praise and honour of others, rather than of God, in the area of giving?

4. What do you make of the apparent contradiction between 6:1 and 5:16? Discuss together.

Praying

5. Re-read verses 5-15. In what ways are our prayers to be different from the prayers of the 'hypocrites'? Discuss together some of the problems Jesus is addressing here.

6. For many of us, the words of "The Lord's Prayer" come as second nature, sometimes without much thought as to what the words say or mean. Jesus gives us this prayer as a model for prayer. List down the key things covered in what Jesus says here (v9-15).

7. How does this list compare with what you might normally include in your prayers? Discuss the areas your prayer-life might be lacking and what needs to change.

8. What assurance and warning is given in verses 14-15? How do you sit with these verses in your own life and relationships? Are there people you need to forgive?

9. What are those who 'fast' told to do to safeguard sincerity (v16-18)? Why? In what ways might we be tempted in this area of our own spiritual life?

10. "Fasting" isn't a popular pastime these days, unless you're on a particular type of diet! What are the spiritual benefits of fasting? Why isn't this spiritual discipline high on the priority list for people? Should it be?

PRAYER

- Spend time praying together, using the The Lord's Prayer as a model for your prayer time.
- Pray for each other and the next leg of one another's spiritual journey with Jesus.
- Pray for the St Faith's AGM on Sunday 10th March.

Prayer Points / Sermon Notes / PEDALS! (pg38)

Study #6: A Christian's Ambition

Matthew 6:19-34

Study Focus:

- *Jesus calls us to live true and authentic lives, particularly considering our ambitions in life – we cannot serve both God and money.*

Daily Bible Readings:

- Monday: Matt 6:19-21, Prov 23:4
- Tuesday: Matt 6:22-24, Luke 16:13
- Wednesday: Matt 6:25-27, Phil 4:6
- Thursday: Matt 6:28-30, 1 Kings 10:4-7
- Friday: Matt 6:31-33, Matt 5:6

To kick off: Think back to a time when you were young. What hopes did you have for your life? What dreams or ambitions? What were some of the values behind those ambitions and dreams? Share together.

In the first half of chapter 6, Jesus calls his disciples to renounce religious hypocrisy and live as children of their heavenly Father. He now turns to the subject of material needs and ambitions. Again the call is the same: be different!

Read Matthew 6:19-24.

Jot down anything that stands out to you or questions you might have from the text.

1. Why is heaven the best place to store up treasure, according to Jesus (v19-21)?

2. What do you think Jesus means by 'treasures in heaven' (v20)? What distinguishes them from 'treasures on earth' (v19)?

3. In these verses, there are a number of helpful 'contrasts' – what are they and how do they help us understand the point Jesus is making?

4. What does 'serving money' look like in our world today?

5. Why do you think Jesus teaches that it is not possible to serve both God and money? Discuss together.

Read Matthew 6:25-34

6. These verses begin with the words, '*therefore I tell you.....*' which links it with the passage before. How are the two passages related?

 7. How much does concern for material things influence your life? What do these verses suggest you can do to lessen your anxiety about these things? List the reasons Jesus gives in these verses for not being anxious about these things.

 8. Put in your own words the contrast Jesus makes in verse 32 and 33.

 9. What do you think Jesus means by 'seek first God's Kingdom and his righteousness' (see 4:19, 5:10)?
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10. What does 'his (God's) righteousness' refer to? (see 5:6, 10, 20 & 6:1)

11. Practically speaking, what difference would it make to your life having God's ambitions as your ambitions? How would it make you different – 'salt & light' – to your non-Christian neighbours and friends?

12. How does this passage challenge you personally regarding your hopes and dreams for the future?

13. How can you, in your Community Group, help one another to stay focused on seeking God's kingdom and his righteousness first in your lives?

PRAYER

- Pray for God's protection from the love of money and the real and present danger in our part of the world to serve money, not God.
- Pray that God's ambitions for his people would be your ambitions.
- Pray for the Webb family – our CMS link missionaries in Broome.

Prayer Points / Sermon Notes / PEDALS! (pg38)

Study #7: A Christian's Relationships

Matthew 7:1-12

Study Focus:

- *Jesus calls us to live true and authentic lives, and turns his attention to the relationships we have with one another and with God our Heavenly Father.*

Daily Bible Readings:

- Monday: Matt 7:1-2, 1 Cor 4:5
- Tuesday: Matt 7:3-5, Mark 4:24
- Wednesday: Matt 7:6, Prov 9:8
- Thursday: Matt 7:7-8, Prov 8:17
- Friday: Matt 7:9-12, Rom 13:8-10

To kick off: How you ever felt judged or condemned by another person? Discuss how that feels? How does it cause us to react? Why?

Jesus turns from a negative attitude in one's own affairs (worry) in our last study, to a negative attitude in one's attitude towards others. He points to a bad habit all too characteristic of humans and instructs his followers not to be hasty in making negative judgments on others. The danger is a similar judgment in return and it is difficult because our own faults make it hard for us to see clearly.

Read Matthew 7:1-6

Jot down anything that stands out to you or questions you might have from the text.

1. What is Jesus' reasoning for us not judging others (v1-2)? Why does he say this?

2. Why are we unfit to take God's place as judge (v3-5)? Why do you think we find it so difficult to remember this?

3. Looking at verse 6, discuss together what you think Jesus is talking about. Why do you think he uses such cryptic language?

Read Matthew 7:7-12

4. What are the actions that Jesus says should be a part of our prayers? Is this verse giving us a 'blank cheque' from God for whatever our hearts desire? (look back at our model for prayer in Ch6 - particularly v10)
5. What comparison does Jesus use to emphasise how we can be confident in prayer (v9-11)? How does this impact your feelings about coming before God in prayer?
6. Discuss what you think the "good gifts" that our Father gives to his children might be (v11).
7. Verse 12, has sometimes been referred to as "The Golden Rule". What is this Golden Rule and how is it a good summary of this entire passage? How might it sum up the Old Testament?

Prayer Points / Sermon Notes / PEDALS! (pg38)

Study #8: A Christian's Commitment Matthew 7:13-29

Study Focus:

- *As Jesus concludes his teaching, he challenges those who call themselves disciples with two different paths, two different teachers, and two different foundations.*

Daily Bible Readings:

- Monday: Matt 7:13-14
- Tuesday: Matt 7:15-20
- Wednesday: Matt 7:21-23
- Thursday: Matt 7:24-29
- Friday: Matt 5:13-16

To kick off: Who, would you say, is offering moral and spiritual direction to people in our society today? How do they do this and why do people listen?

“A number of commentators suggest that the main body of Jesus’ Sermon (or teaching) is now over, and that with verse 13 the application or conclusion begins. Certainly he emphasizes here even more strongly than before the necessity of choice. Enter by the narrow gate, he begins. That is, the contrast between the two kinds of righteousness and of devotion, the two treasures, the two masters and the two ambitions has been faithfully portrayed; now the time for decision has come. Is it to be the kingdom of Satan or the kingdom of God, the prevailing culture or the Christian counter-culture? Jesus continues with his presentation of the alternative as he describes the two ways (broad and narrow), the two teachers (false and true), the two pleas (words and deeds) and finally the two foundations (sand and rock).”*

Read Matthew 7:13-23

1. Jesus describes two ‘gates’ (v13-14)? What are the four characteristics of each and what is the point Jesus is making?

* Stott, J. R. W. (1985). [*The message of the Sermon on the mount \(Matthew 5-7\): Christian counter-culture*](#) (p. 193). Inter-Varsity Press.

2. Why do people dislike the idea that there is only one road to life?

3. Looking at verses 15-20, why are the prophets so dangerous? How does this relate to the two gates?

4. What kind of 'fruit' might identify false and true teachers (v16-20, 5:20)?

5. Why is it sometimes hard to identify false teachers (v21-23)? What 'effective disguise' do they wear that is described in these verses?

6. What do Jesus' warnings (v19 & 23) mean for us? Discuss this together.

Read Matthew 7:24-29

7. What do the two groups of people described in verse 24 and 27 have in common?

8. What is the difference between the two?

9. What kinds of storms might test the righteousness of Christians today? Discuss these together. (see 5:11 for a start....)

10. What do the crowds recognise about Jesus (v28-29)?

Wrap it up....

11. What are the one or two key things that have challenged or encouraged you from the Sermon on the Mount? Share together.

12. How can you personally, and as a Community Group, make sure that you're not just 'hearing' Jesus' words, but putting them into practice?

PRAYER

- Thank God for our Easter Services at St Faith's.
- Pray for visitors who came along, that God's Spirit would be at work in them.

Prayer Points / Sermon Notes / PEDALS! (pg38)

What's your next step in **pedals!**



Pray for their salvation. "Please soften’s heart so they accept you as their saviour".



Pray that God gives you an **Evangelistic Opportunity**.
"Please give me an opportunity to talk about You with"



Do they know you're a Christian? If not, **Drop** a Christian word in a sentence. "How was your weekend?... I went to church...."

Do they know any other Christians? If not, WHO would be a good person to introduce them to? Who might they get along with? And HOW would you introduce them? For a social, coffee, beer, BBQ...? WHEN could you arrange this?



Ask. Have you asked them what they believe? If they've had any church experiences?

If it seems too soon for a spiritual convo, have you asked them what their interests are? Have you asked them WHY they like those interests? Have you asked them deeper questions? Have you shown a deeper and genuine interest in them?



Listen. Have you listened to their points of view? Their interests? Their struggles? Their loves? Their hates? Their beliefs? Their issues with Christianity?



Share. Have you shared with them why you're a Christian? What it means to be a Christian? The difference that Jesus has made in your life?



Invite. Have you invited them to hear more? What do you think would be best for them? Alpha? Read the Word 121? Read a book or listen to a podcast in their own time? Come to church?

pedals!

Name	Friend	Next Step



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