

Grace Guide



JUNE 8-14

“Hearing Something New”

This week we’re doing something a little different for our devotions: reading through the whole Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)

MONDAY
6/8

MATTHEW 5:1-16

Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount by describing the kind of people who belong to God's kingdom. These Beatitudes (from the Latin word *beatus* – blessed) turn our assumptions upside down. The blessed are not the powerful, successful, or self-sufficient, but the humble, merciful, peacemaking, and faithful. Jesus then tells his followers that they are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. These images remind us that faith is not merely a private matter. As God shapes our character, our lives become a witness to others. Following Jesus involves allowing him to transform both who we are and how we live so that God's goodness is visible through us.

1. Which Beatitude challenges you the most, and why?
2. How might God be calling you to be salt and light in a specific relationship or situation in your life right now?

TUESDAY
6/9

MATTHEW 5:17-48

In this section of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus repeatedly says, "You have heard that it was said ... but I tell you." He is not lowering God's standards, he is revealing their true depth. Rather than focusing only on outward actions, Jesus addresses the attitudes and desires of the heart. Anger, lust, dishonesty, revenge, and hatred are all brought into the light. Jesus calls his followers beyond mere rule-keeping toward living lives shaped by love, integrity, forgiveness, and grace. This teaching reminds us that God is interested not only in what we do but in who we are becoming. Transformation begins in the heart and works outward into every area of life.

1. Which of Jesus' examples in this passage speaks most directly to your current circumstances?
2. Are there attitudes or motives beneath your actions that God may be inviting you to confront honestly?

WEDNESDAY
6/10

MATTHEW 6:1-18

Jesus warns us against practicing our faith for the sake of recognition and praise. Whether giving, praying, or fasting, the focus should be on God rather than on impressing others or even pleasing ourselves. Jesus invites his followers into a genuine relationship with their heavenly Father, one marked by trust, humility, and sincerity. The Lord's Prayer teaches us to seek God's kingdom, to depend on God daily, to receive his forgiveness, and to extend that forgiveness to others. Spiritual practices are not performances but opportunities to draw closer to God and align our hearts with God's purpose.

1. When are you most tempted to seek approval from others instead of seeking God's approval?
2. Which phrase of the Lord's Prayer is especially meaningful to you right now, and why?

THURSDAY
6/11

MATTHEW 6:19-34

Jesus knows how easily our hearts become attached to things that cannot last. Wealth, possessions, status, and security can quietly become the center of our attention and devotion, so that is why Jesus urges his followers to store up treasures in heaven and to seek first God's kingdom. He is not dismissing the realities of daily needs, but he is teaching us to trust our heavenly Father more than our own ability to control the future. Worry often grows from the belief that everything depends on us. Faith grows when we remember that God sees, knows, and cares for us. As we place God's priorities first, we learn to live with greater freedom and confidence in his provision.

1. What is one thing in life that you worry about that you literally have no control over? What would it look like to trust God to take care of that worry?
2. Try to remember a time when God provided a need for you in a way that strengthened your faith. How and when did that happen?

FRIDAY
6/12

MATTHEW 7:1-14

Jesus calls his followers to examine their own hearts before criticizing others. It is often easier to notice the faults of others than to recognize our own need for God's grace. At the same time, Jesus encourages persistence in prayer, assuring us that our heavenly Father delights in giving good gifts to his children. These teachings come together in the Golden Rule: treating others as we would want to be treated ourselves. Living this way requires humility, compassion, and trust in God. The path Jesus describes is not always the easiest or most popular, but it leads to the life God desires for his people.

1. How might your daily interactions change if you truly lived every moment in light of the Golden Rule: treat others the way you want to be treated? What difference would that make?
2. What makes it difficult to choose the narrow path Jesus describes, and what helps you stay on it?

**SATURDAY/
SUNDAY
6/13-14**

MATTHEW 7:15-29

Jesus concludes the Sermon on the Mount with a call to discernment and obedience. He warns that appearances can be deceiving and that true character is revealed by the fruit a life produces. More importantly, he reminds his listeners that hearing his words is not enough. Wisdom is found in putting those words and those teachings into practice. The person who builds on rock is not the one who knows the most about Jesus, but the one who trusts Jesus enough to act on what he says. Storms will come to every life, yet a foundation built on obedience to Christ can withstand those storms. Jesus' invitation is not simply to admire his teaching or to agree with it or even to teach it. All of those attitudes are fine, but incomplete. Jesus' invitation is to allow his teaching to shape the way we live.

1. What kinds of spiritual fruit do you see growing in your life, and what fruit would you like God to cultivate more fully?

2. How have life's challenges revealed the strengths or weaknesses of your spiritual foundation?

VERSE OF THE WEEK

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

(Matthew 7:12)