

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)

Lesson Plan: Sermon on the Mount

Learning Goals: Students should be able to contrast the different ways Christians have approached/interpreted the Sermon on the Mount in history.

Opening Question: How do we live as members of the Kingdom of God right now?

Prayer

Discuss Question on Board

What is the purpose of Sermon on the Mount?

- *Impossible Ethic* - demonstrate God's complete and utter holiness; lead us to repentance because we can't keep it
- *Heavenly Ethic* - only applicable in heaven, not attainable on earth
- *Interim Ethic* - followed in short period before the end of the world
- *Institutional Ethic* - blueprint for society to bring the kingdom here; blueprint to institute the kingdom (not fully happy with this name)
- *Individual Ethic* - followed by individuals, but not corporately; variation: only applicable to the "Super-Christian" (monk, priest, pastor, etc.), not for the everyday person
- *Kingdom Ethic* - they are attainable only by those who have the Spirit (imperfectly - perfectly when Christ returns)

From Frederick Dale Bruner:

- *Just Do It (The Early Church View)* - We should actually seek to live this out as Christians with commonsense guiding our application.
- *It's Just for a Few (Old Catholic View)* - The kind of perfection described here is only for priests, monks, or nuns.
- *It's Just to Convince (Post-Reformation View)* - The Sermon on the Mount sets the bar so high that we could never reach it, helping us to see our need for a Savior.
- *It's Just Your Attitude (Early-Modern Protestant View)* - The Sermon on the Mount leads us to spiritual attitudes and motivations, but we aren't expected to literally do these things.
- *It's Just Not Yet (Modern Dispensational View)* - The Sermon on the Mount is not intended for Jesus' time or the modern time, but will be effective when Jesus returns and brings the kingdom in its fullness.
- *It's Just for Then (Modern Eschatological View)* - The Sermon on the Mount was an "interim ethic" for those that thought Jesus would return immediately. Since he did not, this is not applicable to the modern day.

My opinion: "Kingdom Ethic" is most helpful interpretation of the Sermon on the Mount:

- To whom is it addressed? The messianic community - those who are following Jesus as the Messiah.
- It is possible to achieve
- It is only possible for those who have the presence of the Holy Spirit
- This is not "works-righteousness" but "fruit-bearing righteousness"

- As we live this, people will be drawn to Christ and the kingdom will be established.

Introduction to Comic Book for this unit:

This Unit, we are going to do something a little different. I know that there are a number of you who are really interested in drawing, so I want you to use your gifts in a positive way.

We are going to create a Sermon on the Mount Comic Strip. Each of you will receive an 8.5x11 piece of paper with 16 blocks on it. For each day's lesson, you are responsible for make one drawing summarizing the main idea of that portion of the sermon. The panels should correspond to the following list:

1. Beattitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)
2. Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-16)
3. Christ's Fulfillment of the Law (Matthew 5:17-20)
4. Anger (Matthew 5:21-26)
5. Lust/Divorce (Matthew 5:27-32)
6. Oaths (Matthew 5:33-37)
7. Retaliation (Matthew 5:38-42)
8. Loving Your Enemies (Matthew 5:43-48)
9. Giving and Fasting (Matthew 6:1-4)
10. The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:5-14)
11. Treasures in Heaven (Matthew 6:16-18)
12. Worry (Matthew 6:25-34)
13. Judging Others (Matthew 7:1-6, 12-23)
14. Seeking the Kingdom (Matthew 7:7-11)
15. Firm Foundation (Matthew 7:24-29)

Each panel should include a picture illustrating the idea being discussed and some simple text to help remind you what Jesus taught in this section. Each picture must be in color.

Warning: DO NOT try to do it all at once. Take your time throughout the unit and do this well. DO NOT go ahead. I want your comic strip to reflect the conversations we have in class. You do not know the direction we will go in class or the insights you will want to include. You will also need to create a title and a cover for your comic. Therefore, do it a little at a time as we go.

You will turn these in on **Friday, January 8, 2016** and they will count as a test grade, so I strongly encourage you to take them seriously.