

The Sermon on the Mount *The structure of Matthew 5–7*

5: 1-2 *Prologue:* Jesus sits down to teach his followers

5: 3-20 **The opening of the sermon**

- 5: 3-9 A song about happiness
- 5: 10-16 Welcome to Jesus' followers
- 5: 17-20 Contract between teacher and students

5: 21-48 **Lessons on love**

- 5: 21-32 How to reconcile relationships
- 5: 33-47 How to answer evil
- 5: 48 *Thesis:* On being perfect

6: 1-18 **Criticism of religion**

- 6: 1 *Thesis:* On doing righteousness
- 6: 2-4 Criticism of charity
- 6: 5-15 Criticism of prayer
- 6: 16-18 Criticism of fasting

6: 19-7: 12 **Living on the earth as human beings**

- 6: 19-24 The love of money...
- 6: 25-34 Freedom from fear
- 7: 1-11 Fighting, fleeing or sharing
- 7: 12 *Thesis:* On reciprocity

7: 13-27 **Concluding words**

- 7: 13-14 Sending out the students
- 7: 15-20 Warning against prophets
- 7: 21-27 Wisdom for all

7: 28-29 *Epilogue:* Jesus finishes his teaching and moves on

Source: Maarten den Dulk (ed.), *De Bergrede*. Steunpunt van de vrijheid (Zoetermeer: Meinema, 2001) p35f [with minor additions]