

## The Sermon on the Mount

*A colometric-concordant translation<sup>1</sup>*

### Matthew 5:1-20

<sup>1</sup> *But when he sees the crowds, he goes up the mountain;  
when he sits down, his followers come to him;  
<sup>2</sup> and when he opens his mouth, he teaches them, saying:*



<sup>3</sup> Happy the poor with Spirit, *[cf. Ps. 33:19; Isa. 57:15]*  
because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> Happy the mourning,  
because *they* will be comforted. *[cf. Isa. 61:2f]*

<sup>5</sup> Happy the powerless,  
because *they* will inherit the earth. *[= Ps. 37:11]*

<sup>6</sup> Happy those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
because *they* will have their fill. *[cf. Ps. 107:5, 8f]*

<sup>7</sup> Happy the kind,  
because *they* will be shown kindness. *[cf. Prov. 14:21]*

<sup>8</sup> Happy the pure in heart,  
because *they* will see God. *[cf. Ps. 24:4]*

<sup>9</sup> Happy the peacemakers,  
because *they* will be called children of God. *[cf. Prov. 10:10]*



<sup>10</sup> Happy those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Happy are you  
whenever they insult you and persecute you,  
and say all kind of evil, *[cf. Isa. 51:7]*  
lying against you for my sake;

<sup>12</sup> rejoice and be filled with joy,  
because your reward is great in heaven, *[cf. Gen. 15:1]*  
for in the same way they persecuted the prophets before you.

<sup>13</sup> *You* are the salt of the earth,  
but if the salt loses its taste, with what will it be salted? –  
it is good for nothing, except for throwing out  
and being trampled by the people.

<sup>14</sup> *You* are the light of the world; *[cf. Jn. 8:12]*  
a city cannot be hidden, if it is placed on top of a mountain; *[cf. Isa. 2:2; Rev. 21:10]*

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<sup>1</sup> This is based on the work of F.H. Breukelman, *Bijbelse theologie. I,1 Schrift-lezing*. Een verhandeling over de kolometrische weergave van bijbelse teksten als hulp bij het lezen en als grondslag voor de exegese (Kampen: Kok, 1980) – probably a good reason to learn Dutch. Some information about colometry, as distinguished from stichometry, in classical texts was already in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition (1910 pass.), now on [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colometry). More can be found in: Bruce M. Metzger, *Manuscripts Of The Greek Bible. An Introduction to Greek Palæography* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1981), which is on [Google Books](https://books.google.com/) now.

15 nor do they light a lamp, and put it under the bowl,  
but on the lamp stand, and it shines for all in the house;  
16 in the same way your light must shine for the people,  
so that they see your good works  
and praise your father in heaven.



17 Do not think that I come to dissolve the Law and the Prophets;  
I do not come to dissolve, but to complete;  
18 for sure, I say to you, until the heaven and the earth disappear,  
not one 'jota', or one stroke of a pen will disappear from the Law,  
until everything is done;  
19 therefore, whoever dismisses one of the least of these commandments,  
and teaches the people in the same way,  
the least he will be called in the kingdom of heaven;  
but whoever does and teaches them,  
*he* will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.  
20 For, I say to you,  
if your righteousness is not abundant,  
more than that of the scribes and pharisees,  
you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.



### Matthew 5:21-48

21 You have heard that it was said to the patriarchs:  
you shall not murder; *[= Ex. 20:13; Deut. 5:17]*  
and whoever murders, is subject to judgement. *[cf. Ex.21:12; Lev. 24:17]*  
22 But, I say to you,  
whoever is very angry with his brother, is subject to judgement;  
and whoever says to his brother, 'Nitwit!', is subject to the council;  
and whoever says, 'Fool!', is subject to the 'gehenna' of the fire;  
23 whenever you bring your offerings forward to the altar,  
and there you remember that your brother has something against you –  
24 leave your offering there before the altar and go,  
first sort it out with your brother,  
and then you can come and bring your offering;  
25 be quick to agree with your opponent  
while you are still on the road with him,  
lest the accuser hands you over to the judge,  
and the judge to the warder,  
and you are thrown into prison;  
26 for sure, I say to you, you will never get out of there  
until you have paid back the last penny.  
27 You have heard that it was said:  
you shall not commit adultery. *[= Ex. 20:14; Deut. 5:18]*  
28 But, I say to you,  
whoever watches a woman to desire her,

29 already commits adultery in his heart;  
 but if your right eye makes you stumble,  
 take it out and throw it from you,  
 for it is better for you to lose one of your body parts  
 than for your whole body to be thrown in 'gehenna';  
 30 and if your right hand makes you stumble,  
 cut it off and throw it from you,  
 for it is better for you to lose one of your body parts  
 than for your whole body to go into 'gehenna'.  
 31 And it was said:  
 whoever sends away his wife,  
 must give her a certificate of divorce; *[cf. Deut. 24:1ff]*  
 32 But, I say to you,  
 everyone who sends away his wife, except for an act of fornication,  
 makes her commit adultery,  
 and whoever marries her who was sent away, commits adultery.

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33 Also, you have heard that it was said to the patriarchs:  
 you shall not break an oath, *[= Lev. 19:12;]*  
 but pay back your oaths to the Lord. *[cf. Deut. 23:21]*  
 34 But, I say to you,  
 do not swear at all, *[cf. Deut. 23:22f]*  
 either by the heaven, because it is the throne of God, *[cf. Isa. 66:1; Ps 11:4]*  
 35 or by the earth, because it is the footstool for his feet, *[cf. Isa. 66:1; Ps. 99:5]*  
 or by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great king; *[cf. Ps. 48:3]*  
 36 do not swear by your head,  
 because you are not able to make one hair white or black;  
 37 but your word 'yes' must be 'yes', and 'no' 'no',  
 and anything more than this comes from the evil one.

38 You have heard that it was said:  
 an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth. *[= Ex. 21:24f; Lev. 24:20;*  
 39 But, I say to you, *Deut. 19:21]*  
 do not resist the evil one, *[cf. Prov. 20:22]*  
 but whoever slaps you on the right cheek,  
 also turn to him the other;  
 40 and if someone wishes you to be judged and to take your tunic,  
 also leave your cloak with him;  
 41 and whoever forces you to go one mile,  
 go with him two [miles];  
 42 give to the one who asks from you,  
 and if one wants to borrow from you: do not turn away. *[cf. Deut. 15:7f]*

43 You have heard that it was said:  
 you shall love your neighbour *[=Lev. 19:18]*  
 and you shall hate your enemy. *[cf. Deut. 7:2; 3:3f]*

44 But, I say to you,  
 you must love your enemies *[cf. Lev. 19:34]*  
 and pray for those who persecute you,

45 so that you become children of your father in heaven,  
because he makes his sun rise on evil ones and good ones,  
and sends rain on righteous and unjust [people];  
46 for if you love those who love you,  
what reward do you have? –  
do not the tax collectors do the same? –  
47 and if you greet your brothers only,  
what more do you do? –  
do not the foreigners do the same?

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48 Therefore, *you* shall be perfect, [cf. Lev. 19:2; Deut.  
18:13]  
as your heavenly father is perfect.



### Matthew 6:1-18

1 But you, beware  
that you do not do your righteousness for the people  
in order to be looked at by them,  
or you will not have a reward with your father in heaven.

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2 Therefore, whenever you do a deed of kindness,  
do not sound a trumpet before you,  
as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the alleys  
in order to be praised by the people;  
for sure, I say to you, they already have their full reward;  
3 but if *you* do a deed of kindness,  
your left hand shall not know what your right hand does,  
4 so that your kindness happens in secret,  
and your father who watches in secret will pay you back.

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5 And whenever you pray, do not be as the hypocrites;  
because they really like it,  
in the synagogues and on the corners of the wide places,  
to stand praying,  
in order to show it to the people;  
for sure, I say to you, they already have their full reward;  
6 but *you*, whenever you pray,  
you shall go into your inner room, [cf. 2 Kings 4:33]  
and having closed your door, you shall pray to your father in secret;  
and your father who watches in secret will pay you back.

7 But when praying you will not use a flood of words, like the foreigners,  
for they assume that through their many words they will be listened to;  
8 so do not be like them, [cf. Isa. 1:15]  
for your father *knows* what you are in need of,  
before you ask him.

9 So you shall pray like this:

10 Our father in heaven, [cf. Isa. 63:16, 64:8]  
 your name shall be holy, [cf. Ezek. 36:23]  
 your kingdom shall come,  
 your will shall be done,  
 likewise in heaven and on earth;  
 11 our bread for this day give it to us today; [cf. Prov. 30:8]  
 12 and forgive<sup>2</sup> our debts,  
 as we also have forgiven<sup>2</sup> those who are in debt with us;  
 13 and bring us not into temptation,  
 but do rescue us from the evil one.  
 3 *[Because yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory*  
*for ever (and ever). Amen.]*  
 14 For whenever you forgive<sup>2</sup> the people's trespasses,  
 your heavenly father will forgive<sup>2</sup> you;  
 15 but if you do not forgive<sup>2</sup> the people,  
 your father will not forgive<sup>2</sup> your trespasses.

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 16 But whenever you fast, do not become like the sad-looking hypocrites,  
 for they make their faces ugly, [cf. Isa. 58:5]  
 in order to show to the people they are fasting;  
 for sure, I say to you, they already have their full reward;  
 17 but *you*, whenever you fast,  
 anoint your head, and wash your face, [cf. 2 Sam. 12:20]  
 18 in order not to show to the people you are fasting,  
 but to your father in secret,  
 and your father who watches in secret will pay you back.



### Matthew 6:19-7:12

19 Do not gather treasures for yourself in treasuries on earth,  
 where moth and rot ruin them, [cf. Isa. 51:8]  
 and where thieves break in and steal;  
 20 but gather treasures for yourself in treasuries in heaven,  
 where no moth and no rot ruin them  
 and where thieves do not break in and do not steal;

<sup>2</sup> *Or*: leave behind, leave out, leave alone.

<sup>3</sup> This is an issue of textual criticism. The standard text of the Greek New Testament (*Novum Testamentum Graece*, ed. Nestle-Aland<sup>27</sup>) omits this doxology. Some important Greek witnesses for the Gospel according to Matthew add it – for example the Majority Text (ℳ, 5<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> century), the Codex Regius (L, 8<sup>th</sup> century) and part of the Kirsopp Lake minuscules (*f*<sup>13</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> century), and also some ancient translations insert it, all with minor variations. However, the most authoritative witnesses, including the Codex Sinaiticus (Ⲛ, 4<sup>th</sup> century), the Codex Vaticanus (B, 4<sup>th</sup> century), the Codex Bezae (D, 5<sup>th</sup> century) and the other part of the Kirsopp Lake minuscules (*f*<sup>1</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> century), do not read this. The conclusion is, that this verse is definitely a later addition. Hence the square brackets and italics in this translation. NOTE: one minuscule manuscript (1253, 15<sup>th</sup> century, not regarded as very reliable anyway), supported by one or two others, adds this, rather original, doxology: *For yours is the kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the holy Spirit. Amen.*

21 for wherever your treasure is,  
there your heart will also be.

22 The lamp of the body is the eye;  
if, therefore, your eye is healthy,  
your whole body will be full of light;

23 but if your eye is evil,  
your whole body will be dark;  
if, then, the light in you is darkness,  
how deep is the darkness!

24 No one is able to serve two lords,  
for either he will hate the one and love the other,  
or he would adhere to one and despise the other;  
you are not able to serve God and Money.

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25 That is why I say to you,  
do not be anxious about your life,  
what you will eat or what you will drink,  
and not about your body, what you clothe it with;  
is not your life more than food,  
and the body more than clothes? –

26 watch the birds of the heaven, *[cf. Job 12:7]*  
because they do not sow, and they do not reap,  
and they do not gather into barns,  
and your heavenly father feeds them; *[cf. Job 38:41]*  
are you not of more value than they? –

27 and who of you is able, by being anxious,  
to add one cubit to his length? –

28 and why are you anxious about clothing? –  
learn from the wild flowers in the field how they grow: *[cf. Ps. 103:15]*  
they do not labour and they do not spin...

29 but, I say to you,  
even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these; *[cf. 1 Kings 10:4ff]*

30 if, then, the grass of the field,  
which today is there, and tomorrow is thrown into an oven, *[cf. Ps. 90:5f]*  
is dressed like this by God,  
will he not do much more for you, you of little faith? –

31 therefore, do not be anxious, saying:  
what will we eat?,  
or: what will we drink?,  
or: how will we array ourselves?

32 for after all these things the foreigners seek, –  
indeed your heavenly father knows that you are in need of all these things! –

33 but you shall first seek the kingdom of God,  
and his righteousness,  
and all these things will be added to you. *[cf. Ps. 37:4, 25]*

34 Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow,  
for tomorrow will be anxious about itself;

sufficient for the day is its own trouble.



1 Do not judge, that you *be* not judged;  
2 for with the judgement with which you judge,  
you will *be* judged;  
and with the measure with which you measure,  
you will *be* measured.  
3 Why do you watch the speck in your brother's eye,  
and do not notice the log in your own eye?  
4 or how will you say to your brother,  
'Let me throw out the speck from your eye',  
when, look!, the log is in your eye? –  
5 you hypocrite, first throw out the log from your eye,  
and then you can watch closer  
to throw out the speck from your brother's eye!

6 Do not give what is holy to dogs,  
and do not throw your pearls before swine,  
lest they trample them under their feet,  
and, turning around, rip you up.

7 Ask, and it will be given to you,  
seek, and you will find, [cf. Jer 29:13f]  
knock, and it will be opened to you;  
8 for anyone who asks, will receive,  
and he who seeks, will find,  
and to him who knocks, it will be opened; –  
9 or is one of you such a man, that,  
if his son asks for a bread, he will give him a stone?  
10 or if he asks for a fish, he will give him a serpent? – [cf. Gen. 3:1]  
11 if you, then, although you are evil,  
know how to give good gifts to your children,  
how much more  
will your father in heaven give good things to those who ask him.



12 Therefore, whatever you wish that the people would do to you,  
you should do the same to them,  
for this is the Law and the Prophets.



### Matthew 7:13-29

13 Enter through the narrow gate,  
because wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction,  
and there are many who enter that way;  
14 how narrow is the gate and how troublesome the road that leads to life,  
and there are few who find it.



15 Beware of false prophets,

the ones who come to you in sheep's clothing,  
but inside they are ravenous wolves;  
16 by their fruits you will recognise them; –  
17 are grapes picked from thorns, or figs from thistles? –  
so every good tree makes good fruit, *[cf. Isa. 5:24]*  
but bad trees make evil fruit;  
18 a good tree is unable to make evil fruit,  
and a bad tree does not make good fruit;  
19 every tree that does not make beautiful fruit,  
is cut down and thrown into a fire;  
20 so, indeed you will recognise them by their fruits.

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21 Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord',  
will enter the kingdom of heaven,  
but the one who does the will of my father in heaven;  
22 many will say to me on that day,  
'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name,  
and did we not throw out demons in your name,  
and did we not do many powerful deeds in your name?'  
23 and then I will declare to them,  
'I never knew you,  
go away from me, you workers of lawlessness.' *[= Ps. 6:9]*

24 Everyone then who hears these words from me and does them,  
will be like a clever man,  
who builds his house on the rock;  
25 and the rain comes down, and the rivers come, and the winds blow,  
and they fall on that house, *[cf. Ezek. 13:13f]*  
and it does not fall, for it has been founded on the rock;  
26 and everyone who hears these words from me and does not do them,  
will be like a foolish man,  
who builds his house on the sand;  
27 and the rain comes down, and the rivers come, and the winds blow,  
and they fall on that house, *[cf. Ezek. 13:13f]*  
and it falls, and its fall is great! *[cf. Job 1:19]*

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28 *And it happens, when Jesus completes these words,*  
*that the crowds are astonished at his teaching,*  
29 *for he does teach them with authority,*  
*and not as their scribes.*

