

Church of God Sunday School

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Matthew 4:23-25; 5-7; Luke 6:17-49

Jesus traveled all through Galilee, teaching and preaching the message of the Kingdom of God and healing people who were sick. Word of what Jesus was doing spread throughout all Syria (*SIHR-ee-uh*), and many people began to follow Jesus.

One day Jesus, seeing the great multitude of people, went up into a mountain in Galilee and sat down. Once again we find Jesus sitting as He taught the people, for it was a Jewish custom to sit down while teaching the Scriptures.

Jesus' disciples and many other people came to Jesus, and He began to teach them beautiful truths. The first part of Jesus' sermon is often referred to as the Beatitudes (*bee-AT-ih-toods*). The word *Beatitude* means to have "perfect blessedness or happiness." (Everyone who listens and obeys the words of this sermon are indeed blessed!)

Jesus listed many things that will bring blessings, such as being poor in spirit (humble, not proud). He spoke of the comfort that comes from God through mourning (expressing grief or sorrow) and how blessed it is to have a meek (humble and patient) spirit. Jesus taught that people who hunger for the things of God will be filled. Also, those who show mercy will receive mercy. Jesus told how blessed it is to be pure in heart and to be a peacemaker, for they will see God and be called the children of God. Jesus told how blessed it is to endure persecution; the Kingdom of God is promised to them.

Why are all these characteristics important for a child of God? Jesus told us why: "Ye are the salt of the earth . . . Ye are the light of the world." God's people, through their words and actions, are to be witnesses to all the people they know and meet. Why is it important to be a witness? "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." God's people are to live in such a way that brings glory to Him. When people see a Christian life truly lived, often they want to live that way too!



Jesus compared the old Law of Moses with the new law of Christ. Jesus would soon fulfill, or complete, the old law by giving His life on the Cross of Calvary.

Jesus taught how to be patient with people who treat you wrongly. The old way was to give "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." In other words, whatever someone does to you, you do right back to them. But that is not God's way. Jesus said to do good to them and to love them. You should treat them the way that you want to be treated.

Jesus continued teaching exactly how the Christian should live. He gave instructions on how to pray—not using vain words or praying to be heard by others. You should pray in your "prayer closet," or in secret, and God will reward you openly. Jesus taught a model prayer in Matthew 6:9-13, which is often called "The Lord's Prayer."

Jesus also told how to guard one's words, how to treat friends and enemies, and to beware of false prophets (those who pretend to help but only bring spiritual harm). How can we know if someone is a false prophet?

Jesus said that you will know them "by their fruits." A good tree (or a good person) cannot bring forth bad fruit (or bad actions). Likewise, a corrupt, or evil tree, cannot bring forth good fruit.

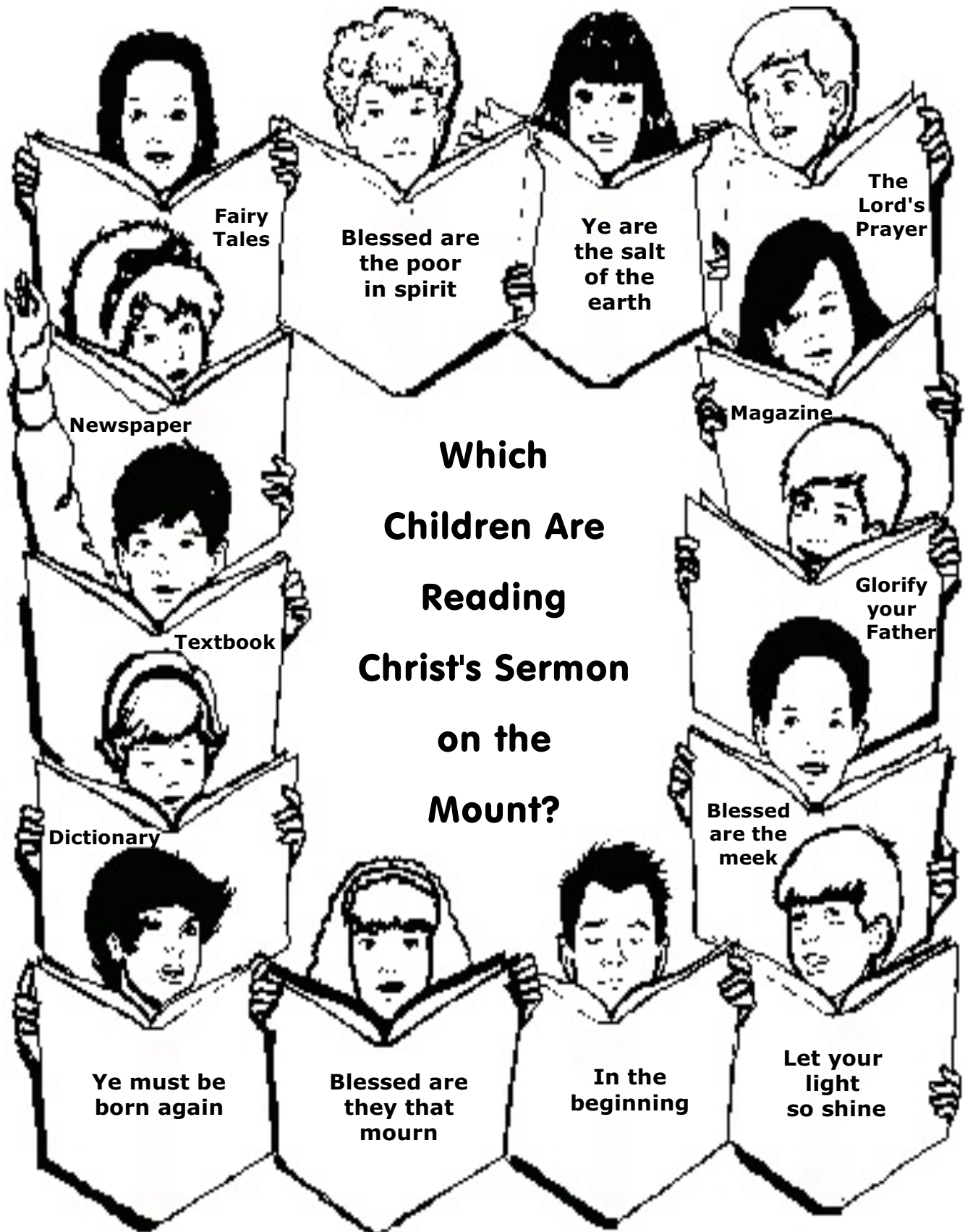
As Jesus ended His sermon, He compared people who heard His words and practiced them to a wise builder who built his house on a rock. But those people who did not listen and obey were compared to a foolish builder, whose house was built upon sand.

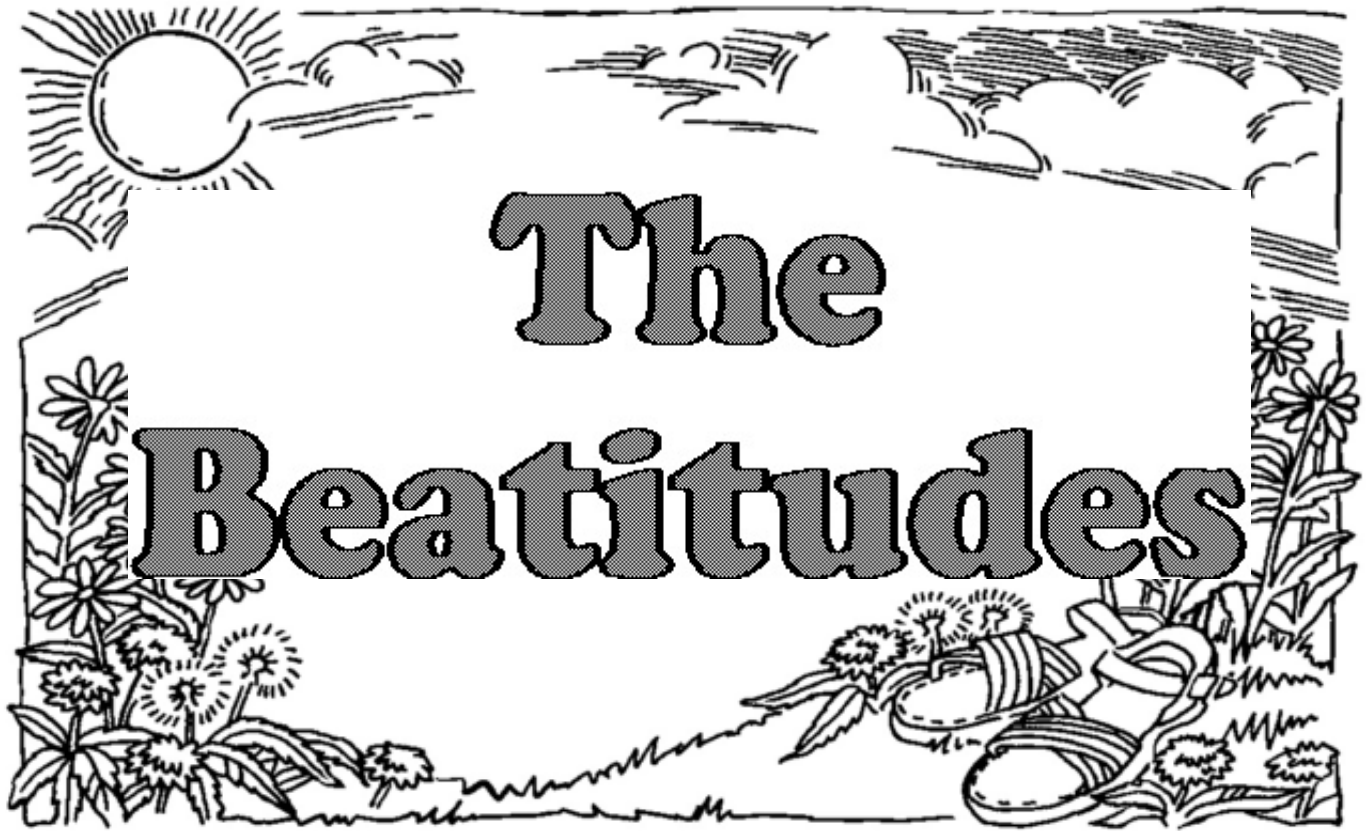
When Jesus finished speaking, the people were astonished! Jesus taught as One having authority, not as the scribes spoke.

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways."*

—Proverbs 8:32  
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Fill in the blanks to complete the Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of _____.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be _____.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the _____.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be _____.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain _____.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see _____.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of _____.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of _____.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my _____.

—Matthew 5:3-11