

Episode 1: Homecoming

It was expected, but Jesus officially calls Judas Iscariot to be one of his disciples. With this, the twelve are now complete. Although the Gospels reveal that Judas will later betray Jesus, he is now among the chosen disciples, and the Sermon on the Mount has been delivered.

Scripture does not explicitly state that Judas asked to be a follower, nor is the interaction recorded when Jesus asked him to be a disciple. John 6:70-71 tells of Judas becoming a disciple and Jesus knew who he was. Read those verses. Do you think you could have had a relationship with someone you knew was going to betray you?

In the show we heard Jesus say a few highlights from the Sermon on the Mount. Read the full Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:1-7:28. Now let's dive into some of those highlights below:

Jesus mentioned the Golden Rule. Write the Golden Rule below. If you can't remember it, look up Matthew 7:12.

Did you know that Jesus' sermon has structure? He starts out with "Blessed are the" (Matthew 5:1-12) then moves into "You have heard that it was said" (Matthew 5:21-48) then into "Do not" (Matthew 6:16-34) and lastly more advice (Matthew 7). As you move through the sermon you will see this structure. In the last season we covered the "Bless are the" and "You are the (salt of the earth, light of the world)" so we will continue in Matthew 5:21-48. Each topic starts out with the same phrase: "You have heard that it was said" this is when he states a commandment or law and then adds to it.

Bible Reference

Jesus talked to the disciples and told them they were going to take a little break. They will separate and then come back together in a couple of days. Jesus prays over them before they go their separate ways.

Numbers 6:24-26 (ESV) ²⁴ *The Lord bless you and keep you;* ²⁵ *the Lord makes his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;* ²⁶ *the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

What a beautiful prayer! I imagine Jesus prayed scripture over his disciples, just like this. Go ahead and re-read the scripture and pray this for yourself and loved ones.

DID YOU KNOW??

This prayer and scripture verse was made into a song called "The Blessing" by Kari Jobe, Cody Carnes and Elevation Worship. They specifically state these words in the song. Search for it on your favorite place to listen to music and enjoy God's words through worship music.

See the chart below and fill in the blanks. I have done the first one for you. Follow the same format.

Topic	Commandment/ Law	Jesus says	Interpretation of Jesus's words
Anger (Matthew 5:21-26)	You shall not murder	Verse 22: Anyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment	Do not stay mad at anyone, forgive and work out problems.
Lust (Matthew 5:27-30)		Verse 28: Anyone who looks at a woman with lust has committed adultery	
Oaths (Matthew 5:33-37)	You shall not swear falsely	Verse 34:	Let your words be honest and do not swear at all.
Retaliation (Matthew 5:38-42)	An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth	Verse 39: Turn the other cheek	
Love Enemies (Matthew 5:43-48)		Verse 44: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.	

Jesus then moves into his “Do Nots”. In each of the verses below underline what Jesus says not to do.

Matthew 6:19-21 (ESV) – ¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:25-26 (ESV) – ²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds in the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

Matthew 7:1-3 (ESV) – ¹ Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. ³ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice that log that is in your own eye?

Which of the “Do Nots” resonates most with you and why? What do you need to remind yourself from these verses?

Jesus then switches to advice and he starts by saying we should seek him.

Matthew 6:33 (ESV) – *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

Matthew 7:7-8 (ESV) – *7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”*

Write a prayer below seeking Jesus. He is the way, the truth and the life, we should seek him in all that we do. Ask for his guidance and seek his will for your life.

Jesus talks about building your house on the rock in Matthew 7:24-27. Underline the two foundations that each man built his house on. Circle the descriptor of the man who built his house on each.

Matthew 7:24-27 (ESV) – *24 “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”*

Do you feel like your house is being built on rock or sand? What can you do to strengthen your foundation?

After the sermon the people are talking about the authority in which Jesus spoke. Read the scripture below and circle the reaction the crowds had.

- **Matthew 7:28-29 (ESV)** – *28 And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, 29 for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.*

In this episode we are introduced to a new character, Joanna. Read the scripture below and underline who she is and circle what she did for Jesus’ ministry.

- **Luke 8:1-3 (ESV)** – *1 Soon afterwards he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, 2 and also some*

women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ³ and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

Two disciples feel convicted to visit designated homes in pursuit of reconciliation, inspired by the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount.

- Andrew goes to Mary's house and apologizes for saying awful things because he was scared. He took it out on her and she didn't deserve that. Andrew wanted to apologize and reconcile their relationship. The saddest part is Mary said she was never apologized to before.
- Matthew goes to his home, knocks on the door and finds himself face to face with his father. He expects to have the same interaction he had years before when his father said he had no son. His parents even sat Shiva because his father had disowned him. Luckily, his father's reaction is much different than it was in the past. He called him son! Another successful reconciliation.

Reflect back on the Sermon on the Mount scripture we covered above. Do Jesus' words convict you to take any action? If so, what can you commit to doing this week?