



# What Does it Really Mean to be a Christian?

The Sermon on the Mount Series  
Mark W. Pfeifer





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## SERIES OVERVIEW AND SCHEDULE

### Kick Off:

Sunday, January 29: *Moving Beyond Today and into Tomorrow*: **Matthew 5:1-12**

### Week #1:

Reading Assignment: **Matthew 5:13-16**

Sunday, February 5: *Being Salt and Light in a Tasteless, Dark World*

### Week #2:

Reading Assignment: **Matthew 5:17-37**

Sunday, February 12: *The Issue of the Heart is the Heart of the Issue*

### Week #3:

Reading Assignment: **Matthew 5:38-48**

Sunday, February 19: *How to Deal with Demanding, Unloving People*

### Week #4:

Reading Assignment: **Matthew 6:1-18**

Sunday, February 26: *Doing Good the Right Way*

### Week #5:

Reading Assignment: **Matthew 6:19-34**

Sunday, March 4: *Being Heavenly Minded for Earthly Good*

### Week #6:

Reading Assignment: **Matthew 7:1-23**

Sunday, March 11: *How to Build Great Relationships*

### Week #7:

Reading Assignment: **Matthew 7:24-28**

Sunday, March 18: *Foundations that Stand*

Use this booklet for the next 40 days as a devotional guide. The assignment of our 40 day journey is based upon these three important components that you can do each week:

*Live it, Pray it, Ponder it!*



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## JANUARY 29 – FEBRUARY 4

*Week #1*

Read every day this week: **Matthew 5:13-16**

**Live it:** Salt and light make their presence known without saying a word. Preach the gospel all week long and use words only when necessary! Make it a point to help people, serve people and make someone’s life better.

**Pray it:** *“Father, help me be a blessing to people all week long. From the people at the drive-thru window to those of my own household, help them to have a better life because they know me. I want to be your representative.”*

### Ponder it:

**Monday:** What are the qualities of salt that made Jesus compare it to us? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Tuesday:** What are the qualities of light that made Jesus compare it to us? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Wednesday:** Specifically, how can we become salt and become light to people today? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Wednesday Night:** Be prepared to discuss your discoveries from the focus text and testify how you have had opportunities to be salt and light to those around you.

**Thursday:** What are some ways in which we “put our lamp under a basket?” \_\_\_\_\_

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**Friday:** Name 5 ways that you can be brighter and saltier. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Teaching:** Sunday, February 5: *Being Salt and Light in a Tasteless, Dark World*



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## FEBRUARY 6 – FEBRUARY 11

*Week #2*

Read every day this week: **Matthew 5:17-37**

**Live it:** Look inward this week. It is very easy for Christians to feel like they are doing OK because they don't commit big sins and go to church on Sundays. Take note of your secret thoughts and feelings so you can dig deep into your own heart for healing.

**Pray it:** *“Father, reveal my heart to me. Help me make sense of my thoughts and feelings. Guide me so I may walk in love for you and other people. Give me grace to be honest with myself and be honest with you without feeling condemned and guilty.”*

### Ponder it:

**Monday:** What does it mean for our righteousness to exceed that of the Pharisees? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Tuesday:** Are there people you need to forgive? If so name them and pray for them. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Wednesday:** Name what do you can to do to make amends with these people and do it! \_\_\_\_\_

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**Wednesday Night:** Be prepared to discuss your discoveries from the focus text and testify how God has spoken to you about your relationships with other people.

**Thursday:** What did Christ mean when He said to pluck out eyes and cut off hands? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Friday:** Considering V-33-37, what kind of people should we be? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Teaching:** Sunday, February 12: *The Issue of the Heart is the Heart of the Issue*



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## FEBRUARY 13 – FEBRUARY 18

*Week #3*

Read every day this week: **Matthew 5:38-48**

**Live it:** A person’s true commitment to Christianity is determined by how they treat their enemies, not their friends. Make it a point this week to be loving and kind to people who may not return the favor.

**Pray it:** *“Father, I need your grace with certain people. I don’t deny my feelings but I will deny my desire to return evil for evil. I believe your Word that tells me that in being kind to others, I will receive kindness in return. I determine to plant love and kindness to everyone I meet.”*

### **Ponder it:**

**Monday:** Define an enemy. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Tuesday:** In real life ways, how can we turn the other cheek to people? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Wednesday:** In real life ways, how can we give our tunics and cloaks away? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Wednesday Night:** Be prepared to discuss your discoveries from the focus text and testify how you can do what Jesus tells you to do without letting others victimize you.

**Thursday:** Taking responsibility to bring justice to other people, says what about us? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Friday:** How can we be perfect like V-48 says we should be? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Teaching:** Sunday, February 19: *How to Deal with Demanding, Unloving People*



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## FEBRUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 25

*Week #4*

Read every day this week: **Matthew 6:1-18**

**Live it:** Jesus assumes that there are three spiritual disciplines in which we should all be involved – charitable giving (V-3), prayer (V-5) and fasting (V-16). Find ways to do all three this week.

**Pray it:** *“Father, I need to be generous in giving, consistent in prayer and disciplined in fasting. Give me grace this week to fast, pray and give so I may see my spiritual life flourish and be a blessing to people around me.”*

### **Ponder it:**

**Monday:** How can we practice generosity? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Tuesday:** Study the Lord’s Prayer in detail and describe how we should pray. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Wednesday:** Why is fasting important? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Wednesday Night:** Be prepared to discuss your discoveries from the focus text and testify how you and the Father have drawn closer to one another over the last few weeks.

**Thursday:** Compare Jesus’ commands with the practices of the Pharisees. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Friday:** How has the church become Pharisaical in our religious practices? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Teaching:** Sunday, February 26: *Doing Good the Right Way*



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## FEBRUARY 27 – MARCH 3

*Week #5*

Read every day this week: **Matthew 6:19-34**

**Live it:** Worry less! There are reasons why we worry. It is a thought process. Thoughts are energy and need fueled. Take note of your feelings of fear and worry this week and find those things that fuel your fears.

**Pray it:** *“Father, I chose to trust You. Help me navigate through this week knowing that you love me and help me not operating in fear and torment.”*

### Ponder it:

**Monday:** Name some ways in which we can lay treasures up in heaven. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Tuesday:** Why is the eye the lamp of the body and how can we make it dark or light? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Wednesday:** What other masters, besides Jesus, are you tempted to serve? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Wednesday Night:** Be prepared to discuss your discoveries from the focus text and testify how you can cease from making worry a motivating force in your life.

**Thursday:** What are some of your most basic fears and worries? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Friday:** What things does Jesus tell us to consider when we are tempted to worry? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Teaching:** Sunday, March 4: *Being Heavenly Minded for Earthly Good*



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## MARCH 5 – MARCH 10

*Week #6*

Read every day this week: **Matthew 7:1-23**

**Live it:** Purposefully move forward this week without judging others. Accept others the way they are and determine to keep yourself focused on how you can bless them rather than changing them.

**Pray it:** *“Father, I want to stay on the narrow way. I want you to know me and I want to know you. Please be close to me this week as we walk together every day to be a blessing to people around me.”*

### **Ponder it:**

**Monday:** What are some subtle ways in which we judge people? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Tuesday:** How does V-7-12 help you in your prayer life? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Wednesday:** What is the narrow way and why is it so narrow? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Wednesday Night:** Be prepared to discuss your discoveries from the focus text and testify about any judgmental attitudes you have discovered in yourself.

**Thursday:** What are some of the signs (fruit) that a person really is a Christian? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Friday:** How can someone do the deeds of V-22 and not enter the Kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Teaching:** Sunday, March 11: *How to Build Great Relationships*



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## MARCH 12 – MARCH 17

Week #7

Read every day this week: **Matthew 7-24-28**

**Live it:** Consider everything that you have learned over the last 40 days. Take the top 5 lessons that most applied to you and deliberately live one out at a time each of the next five days.

**Pray it:** *“Father, I am on a lifelong journey. In the last 40 days I have absorbed the mandates of your Kingdom. Help me to practice them daily and be a true follower of your Son, Jesus Christ.”*

### Ponder it:

**Monday:** What are some of the things we build upon that are considered “sand?” \_\_\_\_\_

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**Tuesday:** What are some of the things we build upon that are considered “rock?” \_\_\_\_\_

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**Wednesday:** Name the parts of your building that you are working the most upon. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Wednesday Night:** Be prepared to discuss your discoveries from the focus text and testify how your life has changed over the last 40 days.

**Thursday:** What are some of the storms of life you have survived and overcome? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Friday:** Name your top three challenges in life and how you are going to overcome them. \_

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**Teaching:** Sunday, March 18: *Foundations that Stand*