# AP Euro – Introduction to Western Civilization – The Sermon on the Mount, excerpted from the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible, Matthew 5-7

*“…Jesus Christ’s words recorded in Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7 are often called the Sermon on the Mount. The reason for this designation is that Jesus “went up on a mountain” (Matthew 5:1) to deliver this message. Apparently, He did this to make it easier for His audience to hear what He was going to say. An abbreviated account of Christ’s Sermon on the Mount is found in Luke 6:20-49. Although there are slight differences between the two Gospel accounts, these passages provide an excellent overview of the subjects Jesus addressed during His earthly ministry. According to John R.W. Stott, “The Sermon on the Mount is probably the best-known part of the teaching of Jesus, though arguably it is the least understood, and certainly it is the least obeyed” (*The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*, 1973, p. 15)…”*

*– Above Source:* [*https://lifehopeandtruth.com/change/christian-conversion/the-sermon-on-the-mount/*](https://lifehopeandtruth.com/change/christian-conversion/the-sermon-on-the-mount/)

**After reviewing the document, write Short Answer Responses to the following Qs:**

**-What is the overall emphasis of this teaching? How should humans approach life?**

**-Which concepts, reflected in the passage, have become fixtures in the Western idea of a civil society? Briefly explain three (3) and justify your choices**

**Chapter 5:**Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, **2**and he began to teach them. He said:

**3**“Blessed are the poor [humble] in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **4**Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. **5**Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. **6**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. **7**Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. **8**Blessed are the pure in heart [free from selfish motives], for they will see God. **9**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. **10**Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **11**“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. **12**Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you…

**14**“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.**15** People do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16**In the same way, let your light [righteous behavior] shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven…

**21**“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ **22**But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ [a term of insult] is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell. **23**“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, **24**leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. **25**“Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. **26**Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny…

**27**“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ **28**But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart… **31**“It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ **32**But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery…

**38**“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’[[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%205-7#fen-NIV-23273h)] **39**But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. **40**And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. **41**If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. **42**Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you…

**43**“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor[[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%205-7" \l "fen-NIV-23278i" \o "See footnote i)] and hate your enemy.’ **44**But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **45**that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. **46**If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? **47**And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? **48**Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect…

**Chapter 6 2**“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others… **3**But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4**so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you…

**6**But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. **7**And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. **8**Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

**9**“This, then, is how you should pray:

“‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
**10**your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
**11**Give us today our daily bread.  
**12**And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
**13**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’

**14**For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. **15**But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins…

**16**“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. **17**But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, **18**so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

**19**“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20**But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **22**“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. **23**But if your eyes are unhealthy,your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! **24**“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

**25**“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? **26**Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? **27**Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? **28**“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. **29**Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. **30**If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? **31**So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’**32**For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. **33**But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **34**Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

**Chapter 7**“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. **2**For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. **3**“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? **4**How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? **5**You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. **6**“Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

**7**“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. **8**For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. **9**“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? **10**Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? **11**If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! **12**So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets…

**15**“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. **16**By their fruit you will recognize them…

**24**“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. **25**The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. **26**But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. **27**The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

**28**When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, **29**because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.