

GETTING THE MOST FROM THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT SERIES

The “SOAP” method: Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer

Scripture (Mk 12:24; Jn 1:1; Ro 10:17, 2 Ti 3:16-17; He 4:12-13, 2 Pe 1:20-21)

1. Read carefully the passages being studied by the Church
2. Try reading out loud; repeating; re-writing
3. Look at other translations, noting the similarities and differences

Observation (Mk 4:13-20, Ja 1:22-25; Jn 5:39)

1. Write down key passages, points, questions
2. Research it
 - a. Look up words you don't know; write down similar passages
 - b. Share your observations with others; ask questions
 - c. Read books...but guard against intellectual pursuit alone and false doctrine

Application (Lk 11:28; Mt 7:24-27; Lk 8:21; 1 Cor 8:1-2; Jn 8:31-32)

“The hardest thing is to move beyond the intellectual discussion and put it in action.
(Steve D. Brown, *The Kingdom of God*, p. 177)

1. Examine self.
 - a. How can I change my character to be more consistent Jesus' character?
 - b. Do I have sin in this area; if so, how will I repent?
2. Record practical ways I can turn a lesson from the passage into a reality in my life.
3. Share my plans for application with others; seek spiritual advice

Prayer (Matt 6:5-14; James 4:1-3; Matt 7:23)

1. I've listened to God; now I will talk *with* him
2. Connect with God; share my heart; ask him my questions; meditate
3. Ask him for help
4. Pray for others, too
5. Meditate; come to a place of peace

Practical guidance we're asking *EVERYONE* to put into practice (Eph 4:3)

1. Develop your own system and make it a *daily* part of your life
2. Record your study (Notebook, journal, computer or tablet, etc.)
3. If you find yourself bored and impatient; eager to “move on” to other stuff, you may be missing something (like application...). Go deeper; consider getting some help.
4. Use the series to not only connect with God, but others (spouse, family members, group members, outreach, etc.). Share what you're learning!
5. Apply grace accurately (1 Cor 15:9-10; 2 Cor 12:9-10; Gal 2:20-21; Eph 2:4-9)
6. Practice humility daily: “He must become greater; I must become less.” (Jn 3:30)