

# THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

I have never heard a good interpretation of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Those who preach on it, noting its fierceness, often say they are also preaching to themselves, falsely humble, admitting they are the blind leading the blind. No - they are (deeply, truly) those who see leading those who see, but failing to fully own the sermon's eternally radical call to self-discovery, to Grace, and to the love revolution.

The oppressed are waking up:  
there's a love revolution.

The depressed are waking up:  
they alone know this joy.

The marginalized are waking up,  
their children will lead the world.

The fucked up are waking up  
to make love with Grace herself.

Do we misinterpret, or read  
the truth in everything?

Do we deny God, or  
insist on a full revolution?

We may compromise our values, but  
Grace will compromise her values for us.  
And we who are always getting into  
trouble will be used for the greatest  
good.

This awakening will really kick in when  
we start standing up to evil and  
ignorance for no real reason, with even  
the least pure of intentions. We might  
make many enemies, but – smile – in  
despair the love revolution is inevitable.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the  
kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they  
will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will  
inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and  
thirst for righteousness, for they will  
be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will  
be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they  
will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they  
will be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted  
for righteousness, for the kingdom  
of heaven belongs to them.

Blessed are you when people insult you  
and persecute you and say all kinds of  
evil things about you falsely on account  
of me. Rejoice and be glad, because  
your reward is great in heaven, for they  
persecuted the prophets before you in  
the same way.

It's time for our frustration with the world to be seen as the spice of life that is it, and to sync up with the alliance of awakened hearts in whom Grace herself is leading a love revolution that will finally change this whole planet.

Now, please don't think that I'm trying to change Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. I'm putting some artless words to what it's always meant to me, honestly. The more I owned these interpretations, the more I felt Christ's heartbeat. And anyway, once you finish a jigsaw you mess it all up again and put it back in the box, you know?

Still, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is awesome, timeless, and we do well to fully own it in our hearts. Anyone who flatly contradicts it will not be taken seriously. Its honest search for purity and total righteousness will never stop inspiring those committed to love. However, anyone whose love does not surpass that of moralizing Christians will never wake up to the revolution that Jesus is all about.

You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its flavor, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled on by people! You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill cannot be hidden. People do not light a lamp and put it under a basket but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so that they can see your good deeds and give honor to your Father in heaven.

Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have not come to abolish these things but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth pass away not the smallest letter or stroke of a letter will pass from the law until everything takes place. So anyone who breaks one of the least of these commands and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever obeys them and teaches others to do so will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness goes beyond that of the experts in the law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven!

They say we shouldn't get angry. But whenever we are dreaming of a better world, and we realize that someone has been angry with us, however subtly, we first have to go and stand up to them, even though we will certainly be accused of rashness and immaturity. Do it now. There's no other perfect time. If we keep putting it off, we will find that we eventually internalize their judgments of us. That realization brings many lonely tears.

They say do not lust. But why not use it, go through it, and fall in love with the whole world? Let a love revolution begin in our own hearts, guts, and groins. Let's walk around silently saying to everyone "I adore you, I want to be close to you, I want us to experience each other's happiness". If morals are getting you down, be done with them. Throw them away. We have to wake up to heaven on earth in this lifetime, we have to join the love revolution right now, however costly. Give up false gods, false selves, false systems. Ruthlessly stand on love alone.

You have heard that it was said to an older generation, '**Do not murder,**' and 'whoever murders will be subjected to judgment.' But I say to you that anyone who is angry with a brother will be subjected to judgment. And whoever insults a brother will be brought before the council, and whoever says 'Fool' will be sent to fiery hell. So then, if you bring your gift to the altar and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother and then come and present your gift. Reach agreement quickly with your accuser while on the way to court, or he may hand you over to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the warden, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you the truth, you will never get out of there until you have paid the last penny!

You have heard that it was said, '**Do not commit adultery.**' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to desire her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away! It is better to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into hell. If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away! It is better to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into hell.

They talk about family values. Family's only good when it really teaches you and enables you to love the wider world. Every family eventually fails at this - it's disloyal to its purpose. There's adultery everywhere, there's disloyalty and compromised values everywhere. Leave the world if you want, but what's best is to discover the transcendent grace that accepts it all. What's needed is a coming together of all the people of the world who are, one way or another, undergoing that love revolution in their hearts, part of that awakening alliance.

They make all sorts of slippery slope arguments: we need to draw party lines, make safe spaces, hang our hats on some commitment, some program, religion, some party etc. etc. Why not just go with the flow, accepting all things as they come, saying "yes" or "no" as you feel? Anything other than that is eventually a hindrance to awakening.

It was said, '**Whoever divorces his wife must give her a legal document.**'

But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Again, you have heard that it was said to an older generation, '**Do not break an oath, but fulfill your vows to the Lord.**' But I say to you, do not take oaths at all—not by heaven, because it is the throne of God, not by earth, because it is his footstool, and not by Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King. Do not take an oath by your head, because you are not able to make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no.' More than this is from the evil one.

Moralizing Christians praise “non-violence”, but love revolutionaries need to be ready for violence. We must put our bodies on the line for the sake of grace. If we find that “going with the flow” is going in a bad direction, we push it further. We make a bad situation worse. Risk your reputation and your relationships and your livelihood and your mental health and your sanity for this.

They say “love the sinner, hate the sin”. But we say love even the sin, seeing it as an attempt to experience transcendence and Grace. Everyone is searching in their own way for affirmation and love. See that you yourself have that attitude somewhere - it’s always true. Jesus loved all people unconditionally. Be perfect like Christ. Be Grace herself.

You have heard that it was said, **‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’** But I say to you, do not resist the evildoer. But whoever strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other to him as well. And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your coat also. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to the one who asks you, and do not reject the one who wants to borrow from you.

You have heard that it was said, **‘Love your neighbor’** and ‘hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be like your Father in heaven, since he causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Even the tax collectors do the same, don’t they? And if you only greet your brothers, what more do you do? Even the Gentiles do the same, don’t they? So then, be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Consider telling no one about the love commitment in your heart. Make it absolutely not a matter of words or ideas or group allegiances, but test its undeniable reality. Make your life about testing and confirming love's reality and power before you have anything to say about it.

And be careful not to perform your acts of love to impress anyone: not yourself, your parents, your heroes, even God. Be totally devoted to the person in front of you for their sake. Then Grace, who is your higher self, will smile on you.

In fact, stop "doing good" and get away. Figure out who you are, what love means to you and what it takes, before pretending you can do any good for someone else. If you're going to meditate, don't bother with methods and mantras, just set aside lots of quiet time and figure out who you are. Love yourself first, as you let grace flow through you to the difficult things, blessing the mean and hurtful things of this world, you'll grow confused about where you end and Grace begins.

Be careful not to display your righteousness merely to be seen by people. Otherwise you have no reward with your Father in heaven. Thus whenever you do charitable giving, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in synagogues and on streets so that people will praise them. I tell you the truth, they have their reward. But when you do your giving, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your gift may be in secret. And your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you.

Whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray while standing in synagogues and on street corners so that people can see them. Truly I say to you, they have their reward! But whenever you pray, go into your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you. When you pray, do not babble repetitiously like the Gentiles, because they think that by their many words they will be heard.

Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

So pray this way:

Our Father in heaven,  
may your name be honored,  
may your kingdom come,  
may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts, as we ourselves  
have forgiven our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation, but  
deliver us from the evil one.

For if you forgive others their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, your Father will not forgive you your sins.

So don't make a big deal of your spiritual practice, and don't imagine all the people you'll coach or who will follow you online. The buzz of that imagination is all that your practice will win for you.

But if you lose the idea that anyone else needs to know about your practice, you will also lose the idea of the one who is practicing anything. You will wake up to the fact that you are not a human being practicing love, but love practicing and revolutionizing humanity.

Open your eyes. If you see things with grace, your whole being will be effortless. But if you see things with greed, thinking in every experience what you can get out of it, then the light within you will fade. You will tire and expire. It's impossible to sustain competing commitments. One will give in the end, so we have to be clear from the start. You cannot live for both grace and greed.

So make a total commitment to effortless grace today, and completely give up worrying about your life – where you will live, or what you will earn. When will you live up to your heart's knowledge that life is more than a house and a bank account?

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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 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.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. 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! "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.

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? 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? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

The world is changing and waking up to the revolutionary power of love. The alliance of the awakened ones will take care of you. Grace herself will watch over you. You will see that life takes care of life. Throw caution to the wind, follow your heart, make peace with every childlike cliché, and regain the innocence of pure love. Shine with that love to others, survive the trials that come with the journey, and, wow, how your life will expand into bliss!

So many questions will arise on the journey. But here's a shortcut to knowledge: just be done with trying to figure it all out. Embrace ignorance fully and it will die in you. While the experts are splitting hairs, you'll be making daisy chains, just watching the clouds pass by. The wealth of human knowledge and love already lives in you. In fact, you are that wealth. And now you are waking up to the pointlessness of this great pretense of our society, which feigns ignorance and suspicion in order to try to get one up on you – as if that were possible.

Yes, we may still be in progress, but please hold onto the hope of full awakening, for yourself and for the planet. And once your eyes have fully opened, your mouth also will open with wisdom and knowledge for all kinds of occasions. Plus you will have the natural humility and humanity to bite your tongue when it would only cause trouble. But if you don't feel able to give up your questions, chew on this:

And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 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?

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For by the standard you judge you will be judged, and the measure you use will be the measure you receive. Why do you see the speck in your brother's eye, but fail to see the beam of wood in your own? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye,' while there is a beam in your own? You hypocrite! First remove the beam from your own eye, and then you can see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. Do not give what is holy to dogs or throw your pearls before pigs; otherwise they will trample them under their feet and turn around and tear you to pieces.



Ask, and you will receive a clue.  
Seek, and you will find a door.  
Knock, and the question will be opened  
up.

You will receive, so why ask?  
And how could you seek if you didn't  
already know?  
You are the door you're knocking on.

Trust us, the answers will come, and the  
simple flow of grace will take over your  
life. The inevitability of the revolution  
will captivate your heart, and the  
simplicity of what we have to do will  
satisfy Christ's. We just have to relax our  
eyes so that we see everyone as  
perfectly flawed.

Now: it is a relaxing path, but they will  
try to intimidate you off it. And this  
much is true: You are your own path to  
yourself, no one else can walk it for you.  
Get off society's motorway and find your  
lonely path to the one we all are.

And watch out for weak or needy  
companions, who come to you in  
wolves' clothing but inwardly are sheep.  
Not everyone who says "namaste,  
peace" is in our alliance. Since we're  
totally committed to avoiding prejudice,  
first impressions, and conscious  
judgment, we need to trust our hearts to  
discern good relationships over time.  
But the time may come to make calls,  
cut ties, and to do things that the world  
doesn't recognize as love. Grace will  
follow you.

Ask and it will be given to you;  
seek and you will find;  
knock and the door will  
be opened for you.  
For everyone who asks receives, and the  
one who seeks finds, and to the one  
who knocks, the door will be opened.  
Is there anyone among you who,  
if his son asks for bread, will give  
him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will  
give him a snake? If you then, although  
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! In  
everything, treat others as you  
would want them to treat you, for this  
fulfills the law and the prophets

Enter through the narrow gate, because  
the gate is wide and the way is spacious  
that leads to destruction, and there are  
many who enter through it. How narrow  
is the gate and difficult the way that  
leads to life, and there are few who find  
it!

Watch out for false prophets, who  
come to you in sheep's clothing but  
inwardly are voracious wolves. You  
will recognize them by their fruit.  
Grapes are not gathered from thorns or  
figs from thistles, are they? In the same  
way, every good tree bears good fruit,  
but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good  
tree is not able to bear bad fruit, nor a  
bad tree to bear good fruit. Every tree  
that does not bear good fruit is cut  
down and thrown into the fire. So then,  
you will recognize them by their fruit.

There is a cultural moment of “wokeness”. Not everyone who muses on it is really awake to the love revolution. The love walk is often quiet, hidden. For those who know Grace there is no need to make ostentatious religious remarks.

But whoever reads these words and says “this stupid “woke” generation” is like someone who stumbled upon a hidden cave. Going in, she found gold! She stayed and tried to figure out how to mine it, but then she reasoned that someone else would have already done so if it were possible. Night fell, and the walk home that night was cold.

But whoever reads these words and takes them to heart is like someone who stumbled upon a cave and, going in and finding gold, admired it for what it was. Night fell, but she was warmed in the depths of the earth.

Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the kingdom of heaven— only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day, many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many powerful deeds in your name?’ Then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you. Go away from me, you lawbreakers!’

Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them is like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the flood came, and the winds beat against that house, but it did not collapse because its foundation had been laid on rock. Everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the flood came, and the winds beat against that house, and it collapsed—it was utterly destroyed!