

## Week 2 Day 1

**Readings:** Matthew 4:12-25; Acts 3:11-26; Psalm 8; Proverbs 2:16-22; Genesis 15-17.

**Focus Verse:** "O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!" (Psalm 8:9)

**Key Concept:** Helping God Along (Genesis 16). There are many points we can glean from the incident of Abram, Sarai and Hagar. For today, consider the lack of faith displayed in Sarai's decision to "help God along" by seeking an alternate means of fulfilling His promise. Sarai's concern over her inability to conceive is understandable, but she eventually learned that God is strong enough to keep His promises. Our finite minds often struggle to understand how God's will can be fulfilled, but we must fight the temptation to "help Him along" by disregarding His word!

**Action:** Apply the principle just mentioned to the work of spreading the gospel. God desires that all men hear the Truth. We must not discard or "improve upon" His pattern. At the same time, we must bear our responsibilities. Have your neighbors heard the good news?

## Week 2 Day 2

**Readings:** Matthew 5:1-12; Acts 4:1-12; Psalm 9; Proverbs 3:1-6; Genesis 18-19.

**Focus Verse:** "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5)

**Key Concept:** The Christian's Character (Matthew 5:1-12). The beatitudes, or statements of blessing, introduce the sermon on the mount. When viewed together, they capture the essence of the character of the child of God. His soul is emptied of selfish and carnal concerns and filled with a yearning for spiritual things. He seeks godliness, regardless of the cost. Those who adopt these attributes will enjoy a great reward in heaven.

**Action:** After grasping the basic meaning of the beatitudes, evaluate your life and apply the messages!

## Week 2 Day 3

**Readings:** Matthew 5:13-20; Acts 4:13-22; Psalm 10; Proverbs 3:7-12; Genesis 20-21.

**Focus Verse:** "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

**Key Concept:** The Contrast Between Christians and the World (Matthew 5:13-16). As Jesus encourages His audience to accept the challenge of following Him, He draws a clear contrast between the world and the faithful. Christians are not to fit in with the world. We are to be as different as daylight and darkness. If we look and act like the world, our lives will not challenge others to turn to the Lord.

**Action:** Make sure your light is shining brightly today!

## Week 2 Day 4

**Readings:** Matthew 5:21-26; Acts 4:23-31; Psalm 11; Proverbs 3:13-18; Genesis 22-23.

**Focus Verse:** "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word." (Acts 4:29)

**Key Concept:** Getting Along with Brethren (Matthew 5:21-26). Jesus offers some keys to proper relationships with others. He shows that attitude--not just action--is important. Un-founded anger is wrong even if it doesn't lead to murder. Cursing others is wrong. Allowing conflicts to linger unresolved is dangerous. In short, good relationships with others must begin within us.

**Action:** Is there a brother with something against you? Take the initiative today to resolve the conflict.

## Week 2 Day 5

**Readings:** Matthew 5:27-32; Acts 4:32-37; Psalm 12; Proverbs 3:19-26; Genesis 24.

**Focus Verse:** "The words of the Lord are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times." (Psalm 12:6)

**Key Concept:** The Importance of Sexual Purity (Matthew 5:27-32). In a society which is overwhelmed with sexual enticements, it is important for us to be frequently reminded of God's instructions regarding sexual purity. Not only is adultery wrong, but lust is also sinful. Marriage, which has been cheapened in our society much as it had been in Jesus' time, is to be returned to the place of honor and permanence God intends.

**Action:** Meditate on pure things, discarding all impure thoughts.

## **Week 2 Day 6**

**Readings:** Matthew 5:33-42; Acts 5:1-11; Psalm 13; Proverbs 3:27-30; Genesis 25-26.

**Focus Verse:** "I will sing to the Lord, because He has dealt bountifully with me." (Psalm 13:6)

**Key Concept:** Trustworthy Communication (Matthew 5:37). As Jesus instructs us to reject vain oaths, He says our communication should be straightforward and trustworthy. We should be people of our word, who can be trusted to keep every commitment we make. This principle should govern our promises to men, and to God!

**Action:** Determine today to keep your word. "Make promises sparingly, and keep them at all costs." Especially consider your promises to God. Are you living up to your commitments as a follower of Christ?

## **Week 2 Day 7**

**Readings:** Matthew 5:43-48; Acts 5:12-21; Psalm 14; Proverbs 3:31-35; Genesis 27.

**Focus Verse:** "The wise shall inherit glory, but shame shall be the legacy of fools." (Proverbs 3:35)

**Key Concept:** Love Others as Sons of the Father (Matthew 5:43-48). The basis for Jesus' instruction to "love your enemies" is that such love is in imitation of the Father. It is so easy for us to excuse ourselves from this duty, displaying love only to friends and brethren. In so doing, we are merely children of the tax collectors! If we want God to love us, though we have been at enmity with Him, then we must love our enemies.

**Action:** Show kindness today toward someone who dislikes you.