

The Sermon on the Mount Chiasm (Matthew 5:1-8:1, 2)¹

A: Seeing the crowds, **he went up on the mountain**...-- Matthew 5:1

A': **When he went down from the mountain**, great crowds followed him,
and **behold**...-- Matthew 8:1, 2

B: Blessed are the poor **in spirit** [Greek word for "spirit" means "wind"]...-- Mathew 5:3

B': ...and **the winds** blew and beat against that house...-- Matthew 7:27

C: Blessed are those who **mourn**...-- Matthew 5:4

C': ...and **the rain fell**...-- Matthew 7:27

D: ...they shall inherit **the earth**...-- Matthew 5:5

D': ...a foolish man built his house upon **the sand**...-- Matthew 7:26

E: ...**those who** hunger and thirst for **righteousness**...-- Matthew 5:6

E': ...**Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them**...-- Matthew 7:24

F: Blessed are the merciful, for **they shall obtain mercy**. [This group receives mercy] –
Matthew 5:7

F': And then **I will declare to them, 'I never knew you**; depart from me, you
evildoers.' [This group receives no mercy]-- Matthew 7:23

G: ...they shall see **God**-- Matthew 5:8

G': ...**Lord, Lord**...-- Matthew 7:22

H: ...they **shall be called**...-- Matthew 5:9

H': ...**will say** to me...-- Matthew 7:22

I: ...sons **of God**-- Matthew 5:9

I': ...**of my Father** who is in heaven.-- Dan. 7:21

J: ...Blessed are **those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake**...-- Matthew 5:10

J': ...but **he who does the will**...-- Matthew 7:21

K: ...for theirs is **the kingdom of heaven**...for your reward is great **in heaven**...--
Matthew 5:10, 12

K': "Not every one who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter **the kingdom of
heaven**...-- Matt. 7:21

¹ This chiasmatic structure is actually the mountain peak of a large chiasmatic structure that begins in Matthew 1:1 and ends in Matthew 11:1. The text used here is either quoted or adapted from the Revised Standard Version translation of the Bible.

L: ...but if salt has lost its taste...it is no longer good for anything except **to thrown out and trodden under foot**...-- Matthew 5:13

L': ...that does not bear good fruit **is cut down and thrown** into the fire.--
Matthew 7:19

M: ...by **men**...Nor do **men**...Let your light so shine before **men**...--
Matthew 5:13, 15, 16

M': ...the bad **tree**...A sound **tree**...a bad **tree** cannot bear good fruit. Every **tree** that...
-- Matthew 7:17, 18, 19

N: ...that they may see you **good works**...-- Matthew 5:16

N': ...every sound tree bears **good fruit**...-- Matthew 7:17

O: "Think not that I have come to abolished the law and **the prophets**...-- Matthew 5:17

O': "Beware of **false prophets**...-- Matthew 7:15

P: ...I have come not **to abolish** them...till heaven and earth **pass away**...--
Matthew 5:17, 18

P': ...that way is easy, that leads to **destruction**...-- Matthew 7:13

Q: ...will pass from **the law** until all is accomplished...one of the least of **these commandments**...-- Matthew 5:18, 19

Q': ...for this is **the law** and the prophets.-- Matthew 7:12

R: ... and teaches **men so**...-- Matthew 5:19

R': **So** whatever you wish that **men** would do to you...-- Matthew 7:12

S: ...**in the kingdom of heaven**...**in the kingdom of heaven**-- Matthew 5:19

S': ...your Father who is **in heaven**...-- Matthew 7:11

T: ...**your righteousness**...-- Matthew 5:20

T': If then, **you** who are evil, know how to give **good gifts** to **your** children...--
Matthew 7:11

U: ...**the scribes and Pharisees**...-- Matthew 5:20

U': ...**a serpent**?-- Matthew 7:10

V: "**You** have heard that it was said to **the men of old**...-- Matthew 5:21

V': Or what **man of you**...-- Matthew 7:9

W: But I say to you that **everyone who**...-- Matthew 5:22

W': For **everyone who** asks receives...-- Matthew 7:8

X: ...**is angry** with...-- Matthew 5:22

X': ...lest **they trample them under foot and turn to attack you**. Matthew 7:6

Y: ...with his brother **his brother** shall be liable to the judgment; whoever insults **his brother** shall be liable to the council...-- Matthew 5:22

Y': ...then you will see clearly to take the speck out of **your brother's** eye.--
Matthew 7:5

Z: ...and whoever says, '**You fool!**'...-- Matthew 5:22

Z': **You hypocrite**, first take the log out of your own eye...-- Matthew 7:5

A2: ...remember that **your brother** has something against you...-- Matthew 7:23

A2': ...Or how can you say to **your brother**, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is a log in your own eye?-- Matthew 7:4

B2: ...first be reconciled to **your brother**...-- Matthew 5:24

B2': Why do you see the speck that is in **your brother's** eye...-- Matthew 7:3

C2: ...and then come and offer **your gift**...-- Matthew 5:24

C2': ...and **the measure your give** will be the measure you get...-- Matthew 7:2

D2: Make friends quickly with your accuser, while you are going with him to **court**, lest your accuser hand you over to **the judge**, and **the judge** to the guard, and you...-- Matthew 5:25

D2': "**Judge** not, that you be not **judged**. For with **the judgment** you pronounce you will **be judged**...-- Matthew 7:1, 2

E2: ...and **you be put into prison**; truly, I say to you, **you will never get out till you have paid the last penny**...-- Matthew 5:25, 26

E2': ...Let the days own **trouble** be sufficient for the day...-- Matthew 6:34

F2: You have heard that **it was said**, "**You shall not commit adultery**..."-- Matthew 5:27

F2': ...**his righteousness**...-- Matthew 6:33

G2: ...looks at a woman **lustfully** [or "**with desire**"]...-- Matthew 5:28

G2': ... 'What shall we eat' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles **seek all these things**...**seek first** his kingdom...-- Matthew 6:31, 32, 33

H2: If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away, it is better that you loose one of your members that **than your whole body be thrown into hell**...that **your whole body go to hell**...-- Matthew 5:29, 30

H2': But if God so clothes **the grass** of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is **thrown into the oven**, will he not much more clothe **you**...-- Matthew 6:30

I2: Whoever divorces **his wife**...every one who divorces **his wife**...-- Matthew 5:31, 32

I2': ...Consider **the lilies of the field**...**Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these**...-- Matthew 6:28, 29

J2: ...**the Lord**...Do not swear at all either by **heaven** for it is the throne...--
Matthew 5:33, 34

J2': ... the birds of **the air**...**your heavenly Father**...-- Matthew 6:26

K2: ... the throne of **God**...the city of **the great King**...-- Matthew 5:34, 35

K2': ...**God** and mammon.-- Matthew 6:24

L2: And do not swear by your head, for **you cannot** make **one** hair white...--
Matthew 5:36

L2': "**No one can** serve two masters; for either he will hate the **one** and love the other, or he will be devoted to the **one** and despise the other. **You cannot** serve...--
Matthew 6:24

M2: ...or **black**...**this comes from evil**...-- Matthew 5:36, 37

M2': ...your whole body will be **full of darkness**. If then the light in you is **darkness**, how **great is the darkness!**-- Matthew 6:23

N2: "You have heard that it was said, '**An eye** for **an eye**...-- Matthew 5:38

N2': So if **your eye** is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if **your eye** is not sound...-- Matthew 6:22, 23

O2: But if any one **strikes you** on the right cheek, turn to the him the other also, and if any one would **sue you and you and take your coat**, let him have your cloak as well...-- Matthew 5:39, 40

O2': ...where thieves **break in** and **steal**, but lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven...where thieves do not **break in** and **steal**...-- Matthew 6:19, 20

P2: ...let him have **your cloak** as well...-- Matthew 5:40

P2': ...**where moth and rust consume**...-- Matthew 6:19

Q2: ...**do not** refuse him who would **borrow from you**...-- Matthew 5:42

Q2': "**Do not** lay up for **yourselves treasure** on earth...-- Matthew 6:19

R2: ...**You** have heard that it was said, '**You** shall love your neighbor and hate **your** enemy.' But I say to **you**, Love **your** enemies and pray for those who persecute **you**, so that **you** may be sons of **your Father** who is in heaven...--
Matthew 5:43, 44, 45

R2': ...**your Father** who is in secret, and **your Father** who sees in secret will reward **you**...-- Matthew 6:18

S2: For if **you** love those who love **you**...-- Matthew 5:46

S2': ...But when **you** fast, anoint **your** head and wash **your** face, that **your** fasting...--
Matthew 6:17, 18

T2: ...what **reward** have you?-- Matthew 5:46

T2': ...they have received their **reward**.-- Matthew 6:16

U2: ...if you **salute your brethren**...-- Matthew 5:47

U2': ...may be **seen by men**.-- Matthew 6:16

V2: ...**the Gentiles**...-- Matthew 5:47

V2': ...**the hypocrites**...-- Matthew 6:16

W2: You, therefore, **must be perfect**, as **your heavenly Father** is perfect.-- Matthew 5:48

W2': ...neither will **your Father forgive you** your trespasses.-- Matthew 6:15

X2: ...**practicing your piety** before **men** in order to be seen by them...-- Matthew 6:1

X2': ...if you do not forgive **men their trespasses**...-- Matthew 6:15

Y2: ...then you will have no **reward from your father who is in heaven**.-- Matthew 6:1

Y2': For if you forgive men their trespasses, **your heavenly Father also will forgive you**...-- Matthew 6:14

Z2: "Thus, when you **give alms**, sound no trumpet before you...But when you **give alms**...-- Matthew 6:2, 3

Z2': **Give us** this day our **daily bread**. And **forgive us** our debts...But **deliver us** from evil.-- Matthew 6:11, 13

A3: ...**do** not let your left hand know what your right hand is **doing**...-- Matthew 6:3

A3': Thy will **be done**...-- Matthew 6:10

B3: ...your alms may be **in secret**; and **your Father** who seen **in secret**...-- Matthew 6:4

B3': ...**Our Father** who art **in heaven**, Hallowed by thy name. **Thy kingdom** come...-- Matthew 6:9, 10

C3: And when you **pray** you must not be...-- Matthew 6:5

C3': **Pray** then **like** this...-- Matthew 6:9

D3: ...**like the hypocrites**...-- Matthew 6:5

D3': ...**like the Gentiles do**...-- Matthew 6:7

E3: ...**and pray in** the synagogues and at the street corners...-- Matthew 6:5

E3': **And in praying** do not heap up empty phrases...-- Matthew 6:7

F3: ...they have received **their reward**.-- Matthew 6:5

F3': ...will **reward you**.-- Matthew 6:6

Chiastic Center at G3: But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret...-- Matthew 6:6

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