

# SERMON STUDY GUIDE



**“Final Exam”- PREACHED ON JUNE 8 & 9, 2024**

## READ

Read Matthew 5- 7:29. Read it each day, perhaps in a different translation each day (A great resource for looking at various translations is [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)).

## DISCUSS

What did you learn about your spiritual “fruit” this week? Were you surprised by what you noticed? How has this week’s reading continued to shape your understanding of what it means to bear good fruit as you follow Christ?

## STUDY

We’ve reached the end of our time in the Sermon on the Mount! We hope this sermon guide series has been transformative for you. Rabbis in Jesus’s world debated whether hearing or doing the law was more important; most thought that hearing was more important because without knowing the law, you couldn’t follow it. Here, we’ll look at whether or not Jesus agrees and see how we are to respond to the Sermon on the Mount.

1. On the surface, what might we admire about those described in verses 21-23? In spite of their admirable actions, why does Jesus condemn such people?
2. It was not only in New Testament time that people said, “lord, lord” and their actions did not match their deeds. Several of the Old Testament prophets came with messages from the Lord warning people about paying him lip service. In Ezekiel’s time there were many who made false claims. Read Ezekiel 13:1-16. What was the message of the false prophets? What was the Lord’s message? How are the prophets and their teachings described?
3. What are some practical examples of saying “lord, lord” while not doing the will of the father?
4. The teachers of the law never claimed to have as much authority as Jesus did. They understood their authority to come from building upon the previous traditions. Verses 28-29 say that Jesus taught as one who had authority. In what ways is that authority demonstrated in this sermon? How should we let that impact our understanding of how we follow what Jesus says?

## PRACTICE

What teaching from this series has challenged you the most? What are some “words” of Jesus (v. 24) that you want to stick with you? Share that with the group, and come up with a practical way to continue to engage with that message.