

Contents

Preface	ix
1 Introduction	1
The kingdom of God – beginning of the future	1
The origin of the Sermon on the Mount	3
The Sermon on the Mount in the context of Matthew's gospel	6
2 The audience of the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:1–2)	8
3 The beatitudes (Mt 5:3–12)	10
Introduction	10
What is a beatitude?	10
Eight beatitudes?	10
Two versions	11
The basic text	12
The beatitude of the persecuted	13
The beatitude of the poor	14
Matthew's interpretation	16
Discussion of the text	16
Change of accent	18
Exegesis	19
The first beatitude (Mt 5:3)	19
The second beatitude (Mt 5:4)	21
The third beatitude (Mt 5:5)	22
The fourth beatitude (Mt 5:6)	25
The fifth beatitude (Mt 5:7)	27
The sixth beatitude (Mt 5:8)	29
The seventh beatitude (Mt 5:9)	30
The eighth beatitude (Mt 5:10, 11–12)	33

4	Salt of the earth and light of the world (Mt 5:13–16)	37
	You are the salt of the earth (Mt 5:13)	38
	You are the light of the world (Mt 5:14–16)	41
5	Jesus and the fulfilment of the Law (Mt 5:17–20)	44
6	The antitheses (Mt 5:21–48)	59
	Introduction	59
	The introductory formula	59
	The meaning of the antithetical formula	60
	Exegesis	62
	The first antithesis (Mt 5:21–26)	62
	The antithesis proper (Mt 5:21–22a)	62
	Liability to council and hell (Mt 5:22bc)	63
	The two additional sayings (Mt 5:23–26)	65
	The second antithesis (Mt 5:27–30)	67
	The antithesis proper (Mt 5:27–28)	68
	The additional saying (Mt 5:29–30)	69
	The third antithesis (Mt 5:31–32)	70
	The original form of the saying on divorce	70
	The meaning of Jesus' saying on divorce	71
	Jesus' saying and early Christian practice	72
	The practice of the Matthean community	73
	The fourth antithesis (Mt 5:33–37)	79
	The antithesis proper (Mt 5:33–34a and Jas 5:12b)	80
	The secondary illustrations (Mt 5:34b–37)	80
	The fifth antithesis (Mt 5:38–42)	83
	The antithesis proper (Mt 5:38–39a)	84
	The illustrations (Mt 5:39b–42)	85
	The sixth antithesis (Mt 5:43–48)	90
7	Almsgiving, prayer, fasting (Mt 6:1–18)	97
	Introduction	97
	The structure of Mt 6:1–18	97
	The context of the Lord's Prayer in Luke (Lk 11:1–13)	98
	The differences between Mt 6:5–15 and Lk 11:1–13	99
	The original form of the Lord's Prayer	99
	The structure of the Lord's Prayer	101
	Exegesis of Mt 6:1–18	102
	General principle (Mt 6:1)	102
	Almsgiving (Mt 6:2–4)	104
	Prayer (Mt 6:5–15)	106
	Prayer in secret (Mt 6:5–6)	106
	On verbosity in praying (Mt 6:7–8)	107

The Lord's prayer (Mt 6:9-13)	108
The address (Mt 6:9b)	108
The 'thou'-petitions (Mt 6:9c-10)	111
The 'we'-petitions (Mt 6:11-13)	116
Addition on forgiveness (Mt 6:14-15)	125
Fasting (Mt 6:16-18)	125
8 On gathering treasures and anxieties (Mt 6:19-34)	128
On treasures (Mt 6:19-21)	129
The sound eye (Mt 6:22-23)	131
On serving two masters (Mt 6:24)	132
On anxiety (Mt 6:25-33, 34)	133
9 On judging others and the joy of prayer (Mt 7:1-12)	149
On judging (Mt 7:1-5)	149
On profaning the holy (Mt 7:6)	153
Trust in God's goodness: prayer of petition (Mt 7:7-11)	155
'The golden rule' (Mt 7:12)	158
10 The disciple in the face of judgment (Mt 7:13-27)	160
The narrow gate (Mt 7:13-14)	160
Warning against false prophets (Mt 7:15-20)	162
The illusion of false religiosity (Mt 7:21-23)	166
Hearers and doers of the word (Mt 7:24-27)	171
11 Matthew's concluding remarks (Mt 7:28-29)	175
12 The practicability of the Sermon on the Mount	177
State of the question	177
Some answers	177
Is the Sermon on the Mount a law?	179
The practicability of the Sermon on the Mount	181
Notes	185
For further reading	187
General bibliography	189