

EXEGESIS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT: Sermon on the Mount (Eng.)—NTEN5222

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Spring Semester 2011 Syllabus

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I. MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandment through the local church and its ministries.

II. CORE VALUES AND CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES:

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “doctrinal integrity” and “academic excellence” especially highlighted in this course. In addition, seven basic competencies guide masters degree programs: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course especially addresses the “Biblical Exposition” competency by means of helping the student learn to interpret the Bible accurately.

- 2010-2011 Core Value: Mission Focus

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course consists of a thorough study of the Sermon on the Mount through verse-verse-by-verse and paragraph-by-paragraph analysis, comparison of various English versions, consideration of pertinent historical and cultural issues, and consultation with major literature and commentaries. The course emphasizes proper methods for discovering the meaning of the text and making application in teaching and preaching. This course has two prerequisites: *Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics* and *Exploring the New Testament*.

IV. COURSE OUTCOMES:

Knowledge

Students who complete this course successfully should:

- Know a basic thematic outline for the Sermon on the Mount
- Know the thematic connections with other New Testament literature
- Know Matthew’s literary purpose for writing the Gospel
- Know the historical setting of Matthew
- Know the critical and historical problems associated with a study of Matthew

Attitudes

Students who complete this course successfully should:

- Appreciate the richness of the Sermon on the Mount for teaching and preaching

- Recognize the importance of the Sermon on the Mount as foundational to the teaching of Jesus and the ethics of the church
- Recognize the importance of historical-grammatical exegesis for interpreting the Sermon on the Mount
- Be more confident in interpreting the Sermon on the Mount

Skills

Students who complete this course successfully should be able to:

- Supply a summary analysis on any assigned section of the Sermon on the Mount demonstrating interaction with historical-grammatical exegesis and close reading
- Be able to access good critical commentaries on the Sermon on the Mount

V. TEXTS:

- *The Holy Bible*, any English version
- Charles H. Talbert, *Reading the Sermon on the Mount: Character Formation and Decision Making in Matthew 5–7* (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1992)
- John R. W. Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1993)

VI. COURSE DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY:

The course is designed to coincide with the outline in the John R. Stott commentary in reference to the biblical content schedule and is formatted according to two major components, individual and group assignments. In this class students will give attention to interpreting selected passages of the English text of The Sermon on the Mount. Emphasis will be placed on the exegesis and theology of the text. Assignments will help to develop the student's skills in exegesis and in communicating the text of The Sermon on the Mount.

This course is designed specifically for the Hybrid format course NTEN5222 New Testament Exegesis (Eng.): Sermon on the Mount. Students will be given assignments according to the course schedule below and will be expected to complete these assignments as noted. The students are expected to complete their individual and group work in a timely manner and post the assignments in the appropriate section in the "Assignments" page of Blackboard. Students may take no more than two absences, but absences are not advised.

VII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Article Summary:

Students are expected to complete a one-page single spaced review of an article from the list below. The format of the summary will consist of a bibliographical entry of the article at the top, a brief summary of the article, and a brief discussion of the student's personal reflection (strengths and/or weaknesses) of the article. The article summary will be turned in by the due date as indicated on the schedule via the assignments page in Blackboard.

Bailey, James L. "Sermon on the Mount: Model for Community." *Currents in Theology and Mission* 20.2 (Ap 1993): 85-94.

- Baxter, Wayne S. "The narrative setting of the Sermon on the Mount" *Trinity Journal* 25.1 (Spr 2004): 27-37.
- Blomberg, Craig L. "The most often abused verses in the Sermon on the Mount: and how to treat them right." *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 46.3 (Sum 2004): 1-17.
- Charles, J Daryl. "'Do not suppose that I have come': the ethic of the Sermon on the Mount reconsidered" *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 46.3 (Sum 2004): 47-70.
- Draper, Jonathan A. "The Genesis and Narrative Thrust of the Paraenesis in the Sermon on the Mount." *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 75 (S 1999): 25-48.
- Easley, Kendell H. "Religion, duty, and the disciple." *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 46.3 (Sum 2004): 33-45.
- Olley, John W. "You are light of the world": a missiological focus for the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew" *Mission Studies*, 20.1 (2003): 9-28.

Individual Exegetical Assignments:

Students are expected to complete individual written assignments each week. The weekly assignments will be turned in via the assignments section in Blackboard. The assignments will include exegesis based on the assigned reading for that week. The exegesis will include:

- a. The student's own work using hermeneutical tools to determine the meaning of the passage.
- b. An examination of the Stott and Talbert commentaries used to support, supplement, and dialogue with the student's own work.
- c. A sermon outline or Bible study plan based on the exegesis of the text.

Group Report Assignments:

Students are expected to participate in a learning group throughout the semester. These groups will prepare assignment reports as a group and will be graded on their content, collaboration, and participation. Groups will complete a **Report Assignment Sheet** (provided in Course Documents on Blackboard) for their scheduled passage and then present their report and lead in discussion during the assignment class period. The remainder of the class will read the assignment reports and be prepared to respond and discuss them in class.

Notebook:

Students are expected to complete either a physical or digital notebook for the contents of the course. The notebooks are to be neatly organized and formatted for accessibility. Each student will compile a Sermon on the Mount resource notebook for use in teaching and preaching. The notebook should include all materials related to a study of the Sermon

on the Mount, including materials downloaded from the Blackboard class, as well as the student's own notes and other useful materials collected during the course. The notebook will be a virtual submission via the assignments section in Blackboard composed of the following five elements:

- *Digital Images*: First, the student will submit to the instructor by email three attached digital pictures of: (1) the notebook front cover, (2) the notebook tab organization, and (3) a sample inside page.
- *Content Statement*: Second, the student will submit in the same email a statement of: (4) the notebook's outline of contents, and (5) how many total pages the notebook contains. Examples of notebook pictures:



Class Grading

The final grade will be determined as follows:

- 10% Class Participation
- 10% Article Summary
- 20% Group Assignments
- 20% Individual Assignments
- 20% Notebook
- 20% Final Exam

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Biblical Text Commentary Reading Assignment Due Dates	Individual Exegetical Assignments Due Saturdays (before class meeting) at Midnight	Group Report Assignments Due Fridays (before class meeting) at Midnight
Jan 24 Class 1 Week 1	Introductory material Matt 5:1-2	Critical Introduction	
Jan 31 Week 2	Matt 5:3-12	Exegesis and sermon/Bible study outline	
Feb 7 Class 2 Week 3	Matt 5:13-16	Exegesis and sermon/Bible study outline	Group A: Matt 5:3-16 Group Report

Feb 14 Week 4	Matt 5:17–20	Exegesis and sermon/Bible study outline	
Feb 21 Class 3 Week 5	Matt 5:21–30	Exegesis and sermon/Bible study outline	Group B: Matt 5:17–30 Group Report
Feb 28 Week 6	Matt 5:31–37	Exegesis and sermon/Bible study outline	
Mar 7 Class 4 Week 7	Matt 5:38–48	Exegesis and sermon/Bible study outline	Group C: Matt 5:31–48 Group Report
Mar 14 Spring Break			
Mar 21 Class 5 Week 8	Matt 6:1–6, 6:16–18	Exegesis and sermon/Bible study outline	Group A: Matt 6:1–6, 6:16–18 Group Report
Mar 28 Week 9	Matt 6:7–15	Exegesis and sermon/Bible study outline	
Apr 4 Class 6 Week 10	Matt 6:19–34	Exegesis and sermon/Bible study outline	Group B: Matt 6:7–15, 6:19–34 Group Report
Apr 11 Week 11	Matt 7:1–12	Exegesis and sermon/Bible study outline	
Apr 18 Class 7 Week 12	Matt 7:13–20 *Assign Final	Exegesis and sermon/Bible study outline	Group C: Matt 7:1–20 Group Report
Apr 25 Week 13	Matt 7:21–27	Exegesis and sermon/Bible study outline	
May 2 Class 8 Week 14	Matt 7:28–29	Exegesis and sermon/Bible study outline Article Summary Due	
May 9	Final Exam Due Notebook Due		

VIII. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Allison, Dale. *The Sermon on the Mount: Inspiring the Moral Imagination*. New York, Crossroad Publishing, 1999.

Arnold, Eberhard. *Salt and Light: Talks and Writings on the Sermon on the Mount*. Rifton, NY: Plough Publishing, 1967.

- Augustinus. *The Preaching of Augustine: "Our Lord's Sermon on the Mount,"* The Preacher's Paperback Library 13. Fortress Press, 1973.
- Barclay, William. *The Old Law & the New Law*. Edinburgh: Saint Andrew Press, 1972.
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- Hunter, Archibald. *A Pattern For Life*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1965.
- Jeremias, Joachim. *The Sermon on the Mount*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1963.
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