

How to Be Human
Lesson 1, Master Teacher Outline

Master Teacher Outline
OUTSTANDING CHARACTER
(15-20 minutes, easy set-up)

Use this outline and the Biblical Commentary to prepare to share the truths of this passage with learners. Encourage learners to take notes on their copies of the Learner Worksheet as you teach. The underlined words in the Master Teacher Outline correspond to the blanks on the worksheet.

Introduction: If you have ever chosen a difficult major at a prestigious university, then you've heard of “weed out” courses. These supposedly entry-level classes are used to determine which students have the determination and talent to excel while “weeding out” those students who aren't fully committed to the program. Perhaps Jesus' message in the Sermon on the Mount could be compared to a “weed out” course because His teachings challenged everything that His listeners believed about the Kingdom of God. After hearing this message, only the most committed disciples would stay the course.

1. Followers of Christ recognize the depth of their spiritual needs (Matt. 5:1-5).

- Jesus wanted those who followed Him to understand what was required of His disciples (w. 1-2).
- The “poor in spirit” recognize their sinfulness before God and their inability to attain righteousness by their own efforts (v. 3).
- “Those who mourn” feel deep sorrow for their sin and the sinful condition of this world (v. 4).
- The “meek” have a gentle and teachable spirit, submit to God's sovereignty in their lives, and express righteous anger when others are wronged (v. 5).

Illustration: In his book *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*, Oswald Chambers once said, “The Sermon on the Mount produces despair in the heart of the natural man, and that is the very thing Jesus means it to do, because as soon as we reach the point of despair we are willing to come as paupers to Jesus Christ and receive from Him.”

2. Followers of Christ seek Jesus to satisfy their need for righteousness (Matt. 5:6).

- Recognizing their spiritual poverty, Christ's follower's hunger and thirst for the righteousness of spirit that only Jesus can supply (v. 6).
- Because People are God's Treasure, Jesus satisfies the spiritual hunger of those who turn to Him for cleansing of their sins.

Interactive Question: Describe spiritual hunger. When has Jesus met your spiritual hunger?

3. Followers of Christ reflect His righteousness in their lives (Matt. 5:7-10).

- Because they have received mercy, disciples respond with mercy to the failures and sins of others (v. 7).
- The “pure in heart” make devotion to Christ their highest priority (v. 8).
- Because of their reconciled relationship with God, disciples seek peace with others through sharing the gospel and living according to Christ's commands (v. 9).

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- Disciples are willing to suffer for living out their faith in Christ (v. 10).

Illustration: Review the diagram of “Inward Characteristics and Outward Behaviors” in the learner guide. How do the changes in attitude directly impact outward actions? How do both sides reflect God’s standards?

Conclusion: To a culture that celebrates self-sufficiency, Jesus revealed that His blessings are given to those who recognize their need for a Savior and make His Kingdom their highest priority. He challenged His disciples to live differently than others by reflecting His righteousness in all aspects of their lives.