

No. 44 How Can Jesus' Teachings Benefit You?

PLEASE NOTE: Emphasize the practical value of Jesus' teachings, and urge all to apply his teachings in their life. If you wish, you may use the provided artwork to illustrate the points indicated

THE GREATEST SERMON EVER GIVEN (5 min.)

During his earthly ministry, Jesus spoke about many topics

His central message was the Kingdom of God (Lu 8:1)

He also spoke about the everyday concerns of his listeners (cf 211 ¶4)

Some of Jesus' most famous teachings are found in the Sermon on the Mount (cf 46 ¶1-2; cf 211 ¶5) [Image 1]

That sermon had a profound effect on those who heard it [Read Matthew 7:28]

It continues to influence many people today (cf 109 ¶4-5)

Let us examine three topics from that sermon and see how Jesus' teachings can benefit us

HOW TO BE HAPPY (6 min.)

Jesus began his talk with a topic that would surely appeal to his listeners—how to be happy

He listed first an especially important factor [Read Matthew 5:3] (w18.09 18 ¶4-5)

We fill our spiritual need by drawing close to God in prayer, studying the Bible and Bible-based publications, and applying what we learn (Ps 1:1-3)

When we take action to fill our spiritual need, we find real meaning in life

[Relate an experience, such as from *The Watchtower*, April 1, 2013, page 6, paragraph 5]

HOW TO PRAY (7 min.)

Jesus taught that our prayers should come from the heart [Read Matthew 6:7] (wp21.1 8 ¶1)

He gave examples of appropriate things to pray about [Read Matthew 6:9-13] (w10 10/1 7-8)

We should pray for God's name to be sanctified and for his Kingdom to come

We should ask God to forgive us for our sins

We can pray about our material needs or anything else that is in harmony with God's will (1Jo 5:14)

Jehovah will bless us when we sincerely pray to him and "keep on asking" (Mt 7:7)

[Relate an experience, such as from *The Watchtower*, February 1, 2015, pages 10-11]

HOW TO PLEASE GOD (8 min.)

Jesus taught that we must do God's will if we want to gain His approval [Read Matthew 7:21]

We should make decisions according to God's righteous standards, not our own standards (Mt 6:33)

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus highlighted some of Jehovah's standards

Treat others as you would like to be treated (Mt 7:12)

Do not make material possessions the most important thing in your life (Mt 6:24, 31, 32)

Respect God's standards regarding sex and marriage (Mt 5:27-32)

We always benefit when we center our life on Jehovah and his standards rather than on ourselves

[Relate an experience, such as from *The Watchtower*, October 1, 2014, pages 14-15]

WILL YOU APPLY JESUS' TEACHINGS? (4 min.)

Jesus concluded the Sermon on the Mount with a call to action [Read Matthew 7:24-27]

To benefit from his teachings, we need to do more than hear them—we need to apply them (w08 11/1 30 ¶1-3) [Image 2]

What actions should you take?

Continue to learn about God and his requirements (Joh 17:3)

Make any needed adjustments in your life to conform to those requirements (Mt 7:13, 14)

Jesus emphasized that applying his teachings leads to real blessings; he said: "If you know these things, happy you are if you *do* them" (Joh 13:17)

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section.

Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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