



Studies in the Sermon on the Mount: God's Character and the Believer's Conduct

Oswald Chambers

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“All Christians need desperately to read this little volume again and again, until it sinks down into our subconscious minds—all that matters is our relationship with God!”—P. L., Michigan

Oswald Chambers’ most well-known title, the devotional *My Utmost for His Highest*, has established him as one of the most influential teachers of our time.

But did you know he wrote books on the Bible as well? Now you can take advantage of this teacher’s profound insight on Matthew 5-7 and what it means to focus on God and God alone.

Studies in the Sermon on the Mount: God's Character and the Believer's Conduct Details

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Charles says

wow. heavy, heavy chambers. insightful, challenging, profound.

Ruth E. Holmes says

Life Changing

I was look for something by Oswald Chambers because I find his My Utmost for His Highest so challenging - in a good way. I was intrigued by the title and have been amazed and challenged by this as well. I would recommend this for any seeking a deeper walk with Jesus.

Scott Lake says

This is written by a "true" Christian. An in depth study not only of The Sermon on the Mount but also what kind of life every person should be living. I enjoyed it immensely even though it definitely convicted my heart and made me want to be a better person, so I guess that it did exactly what it set out to do; it taught and informed me.

Bungz says

I have read this book twice so far. I believe i will read it again (and again, and again...).

Oswald Chambers has set out to explain one of the most simple, yet puzzling, passage in the Bible - the sermon on the mount (Matthew 5-7). Although written in simple language, this book has been one of the most challenging and edifying books i have read thus far. The passage is divided in to five sections and explained:

His Teaching and Our Training

Actual and Real

Incarnate Wisdom and Individual Reason

Character and Conduct

Ideas, Ideals, and Actuality

Without diluting the expectations of the passage on disciples of Christ, Chambers has set out to teach us the impossibility of it and yet live up to it. This book encourages the readers to greater commitment to, and deeper dependence on God.

I used this book as a daily devotional once. And as study during one of my retreat times.

I would recommend this book to anyone that seeks to be challenged and to go deeper with God.

J. Alfred says

My brother and I have a joke: whenever Oswald Chambers is mentioned, we say "Oswald is my favorite Chambers." Look, whatever. Chambers writes in a way that is charmingly artless, and he has some insightful and powerful things to say about the Sermon on the Mount.

Stephanie H says

Completely excellent. Chambers reads with a similar bluntness of theology as one find in Lewis, but with more immediate applications to one's life. So much is laid plain in his commentary that gives an immediate challenge to the way we live when compared to the words of Christ.

Aaron S says

I read this awe inspiring book of beauty simultaneously with my morning bible studies. Oswald Chambers is one of my favorite Christian writers. This book reaffirms his vast knowledge woven into relatable understanding. More of a study guide than a book for entertainment. A must read for anyone looking to grow as a believer of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior.

V Lynn McCabe Jr says

"The golden rule for understanding in spiritual matters is not intellect, but obedience. Discernment in the spiritual world is never gained by intellect; in the common-sense world it is. If a man wants scientific knowledge, intellectual curiosity is his guide; but if he wants insight into what Jesus Christ teaches, he can only get it by obedience. If things are dark to us spiritually, it is because there is something we will not do. Intellectual darkness comes because of ignorance; spiritual darkness comes because of something I do not intend to obey." p 67

Joy says

Excellent, which is typical for Chambers. The book was a compilation of lectures at God's Bible School in Cincinnati in 1907.

"It is the work of the Holy Spirit to bring back into the conscious mind the things that are stored in the subconsciousness."

"Intellectual darkness comes because of ignorance; spiritual darkness comes because of something I do not intend to obey."

"The measure of our growth in grace is our attitude toward other people."

"We hear only what we listen for."

Probably the biggest insight was his definition of the essence of sin -- "my claim to my right to myself."

Ph. D. says

If you are serious about being a follower of Christ, read this book -- and expect to be convicted. I have filled Matt 5-7 in my Bible with notes from this piercing study of the greatest sermon ever preached. Here is the essence: "As we study the Sermon on the Mount we find that we are badgered by the Spirit of God from every standpoint in order to bring us into a simplicity of relationship with Jesus Christ. The standard is that of a child depending on God." (p. 98)

Read this book with reverence and humility.

Andy Brock says

Good Read

Though most of what we have from Oswald Chambers is the loving product of his widow's faithfulness, I think we can appreciate the sincerity of his life in Christ. I think, too, that Chambers is spot on in his treatment of the Holy Spirit is the author of the Sermon on the Mount in our disposition.

Jørgen Hansen says

"The principles of the sermon on the Mount explain the character of the Lord's kingdom... These principles are absolutely unworkable unless Jesus Christ can remake us... The sermon on the Mount is a statement of the life we will live when the Holy Ghost is getting His way with us," Oswald Chambers writes.

Nathan Albright says

Perhaps most famous for his work *My Utmost For His Highest*, this mercifully short (only about 100 pages or so) book is deeply uneven, and suggests that the author was deeply unaware of his own critical attitude. Of course, being a person with an intensely critical attitude myself, it can be fairly easy to not realize when one is being less than charitable to others while that lack of charity is conspicuously obvious to everyone else. That is to say, I empathize with the problem of the author because it is one I share in flamboyant abundance. This author demonstrates a marked tendency to afflict the comfortable without a balancing tendency to comfort the afflicted, which is not too surprising from someone who was a part of the holiness movement and a notably stern Scotch Baptist. To be sure, it is nothing too unusual to reflect on the Sermon on the Mount, as that is one of the most notable parts of Jesus' ministry as a wellspring of material for thought and reflection [1]. This particular exploration is a demanding one, though, and one that carries with it certain unfriendly and unbiblical language that demonstrates the author is not engaged in exegesis so much as proof-texting, although that is a common enough tendency that is rarely provokes commentary.

This book takes a little more than 100 pages to deal with the Sermon on the Mount in five chapters. There is a foreword and a publisher's foreword that encourages readers to deal with the arcane language of this text in

order to gain insight from it. And, to be sure, this is a text that has some insightful comments, although the author (like many) tends to contradict himself from one chapter to another. The first chapter covers Matthew 5:1-20, labeled as His teaching and our training, and then the author calls Matthew 5:21-42 "actual and real," Matthew 5:43-6:34 "incarnate wisdom and individual reason," Matthew 7:12 "character and conduct," and Matthew 7:13-29 "ideas, ideals, and actuality." The author, as can be seen, has a strong interest in actuality, but his titles are far more arbitrary than they are revelatory. Each individual chapter includes a great deal of material that serves as a scriptural commentary, featuring old-fashioned language (which may have been more common when the author wrote in the early 20th century) and an approach which is not particularly loving at all.

Given that much of this book reeks of a "be you warm and filled" approach, and the author's language presents a barrier to contemporary understanding and the sort of unloving approach that does not cut much ice in the present age, what is worthwhile about this book. In many ways, this book is useful both because its insights are tough-minded and remind us of the elevated demands of God and His desire to transform us into His image rather than accept us as we are in our original fallen state. Additionally, this book is a reminder of the need for authors to be humble with the biblical texts that we are dealing with. All too often it is easy to forget that when we comment on scripture, we do so at great risk to our own well-being in that if we are foolish in our statements we will suffer accordingly for leading people astray. In this book we see an author who became most famous posthumously for his devotional writings show himself to be an ungenerous critic of his time and, simultaneously, a critic of judging others even after he has done so. He attempts to give the harshest possible meaning for Matthew 7:1-5 and finds that it rebounds on him to make him look particularly hypocritical, something we all ought to remember, lest the same misfortune happen to us. None of us is immune to teaching kindness and showing harshness, and this is especially dangerous for those of us who are intensely critical writers. For that reminder alone this book is of worth to writers and commentators on scripture and culture.

[1] See, for example:

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.wordpress...>

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William says

I borrowed this from the library but now I want a copy to keep with me. There are certain books that inspire me and I feel should be read often. It is a great devotional reading to get your day started with spiritual insights. It will continually challenge your thinking and bring a delightful desire to understand and know God in reality. It opens your eyes to the relationship of the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ and the Father. I really enjoyed reading this book.

Kath says

Do you really want to understand the work of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life? If you do, this book will change your life. Chambers unpacks Christ's teachings from the Sermon on the Mount as they can only be authentically lived by true disciples in the power of the Spirit. Best if read slowly and meditated upon, along with the Scripture itself. Repeat often with prayer.
