

Sermon on the Mount

First Sectional Exam Review

Introduction

1. **Gospel Genre.** Explain briefly the first-century use of the term *euangelia* behind the translation “gospel.”
2. Identify how Mark’s use is new. First what is different about Mark’s use in terms of the length of the document referred to in this way? What is Mark’s use “more than” and why? What is Mark’s use in particular?
3. What three specific literary terms can be used to describe Mark’s usage?.
4. List four formal characteristics of the content of a “gospel.”
5. **Critical Issues.** The external evidence for authorship of Matthew turns on the statement of one church father in particular. Who is he? When did he write? What specifically did he say? What are the ambiguities of what he said that leave the issue of authorship unsolved?
6. What are arguments given by modern criticism against Matthean authorship?
7. What are the lower and upper limits for date? Where do most scholars fall?
8. Other introductory questions, such as place of writing, destination, and occasion and purpose are not conclusive. However, be able to recognize the proposals of Stendahl, Bacon, Davies, and Kümmel.
9. Know the five-part structure of Matthew as first observed by Bacon. What literary phenomenon within the text provides the divisions? What cycle is the Sermon on the Mount in? What narrative material does this discourse seek to explain?
10. Know five illustrations of Matthew’s Jewish nature. Briefly identify other characteristics of Matthew.
11. Be ready to state the theme of Matthew.

Interpretation

1. **History of Interpretation.** Know specifics in the history of interpretation of the Sermon. What characterizes the pre-Reformation period? What characterizes the Reformation period? What characterizes the post-Reformation period? Summarize the eight major approaches to the Sermon. What two fundamental questions have never gained any consensus in Christian interpretation of the Sermon?
2. Explain Guelich’s analogy of the gospel writers as composing “portraits” of Jesus, not “photographs.”
3. Explain Guelich’s breakdown of the Sermon structure as a complexity of (1) christological, (2) ecclesiological, and (3) eschatological themes.
4. **General Approach.** Explain Guelich’s division of the five chapters (5–9) as based on demonstrations of Jesus as being “Messiah of Word” and “Messiah of Deed.” If the Sermon is Jesus’ presentation of himself and a summons to the Kingdom, what theological concern is central to the Sermon?
5. Contrast Matthew’s Sermon on the Mount with Luke’s Sermon on the Plain. Then, how do Matthew and Luke present the crowds surrounding Jesus somewhat differently?

6. **Specific Passages.** Be ready to identify specific features of Guelich's analysis of the individual units of material (5:1–2; 5:3–5; 5:6–8; 5:9–12; 5:13–16). Be ready for objective questions on this material based on Guelich's comments, such as true/false, multiple choice, and fill-in-the-blank.

Team Reports

1. **Background Studies.** Be able to summarize Background Studies #1 and #2. What are crucial features of each study that shed light on the exegesis of the Sermon on the Mount?
2. **Word Studies.** Be able to summarize Word Studies #1 and #2. What are crucial features of each study that shed light on the exegesis of the Sermon on the Mount?