

STRUCTURE OF THE SERMON ON THE MT

A Trilogy Filled Chiastic

The following outline comes from Studies in Matthew by Dale C. Allison.

- I.** Introduction: the crowds on the mountain (4:23-5:1)
- II.** Nine beatitudes for the people of God (5:3-12)
- III.** The task of the people of God in the world (5:13-7:12)
 - A. Summary statement: salt and light (5:13-16)
 - B. The three pillars (5:17-7:12)
 - 1. Jesus and the Torah (5:17-48)
 - a) General principles (5:17-20)
 - b) Two triads of specific instruction (5:21-48)
 - (1) The first triad (5:21-32)
 - (a) On murder (5:21-26)
 - (b) On adultery (5:27-30)
 - (c) On divorce (5:31-32)
 - (2) The second triad (5:33-48)
 - (a) Do not swear (5:33-37)
 - (b) Turn the other cheek (5:38-42)
 - (c) Love your enemy (5:43-48)
 - 2. The Christian cult (6:1-18)
 - a) General principle (6:1)
 - b) A triad of specific instruction (6:2-18)
 - (1) Almsgiving (6:2-4)
 - (2) Prayer (6:5-15)
 - (a) How to pray: not as the “hypocrites” in the synagogue (6:5-6)
 - (b) How to pray, continued (6:7-15)
 - i) Not as the Gentiles (6:7-8)
 - ii) The Lord’s Prayer (6:9-13)
 - a) The address (6:9)
 - b) Three “You” petitions (6:9-10)
 - c) Three “we” petitions (6:11-13)
 - iii) On forgiveness (6:14-15)
 - (3) Fasting(6:16-18)
 - 3. Social issues (6:19-7:12)
 - a) God and mammon (6:19-34)
 - (1) A triad on true treasure (6:19-24)
 - (a) Prohibition: “Do not store up treasure on earth” (6:19-21)

- (b) Parable on vision: the good eye (6:22-23)
 - (c) Parable about incompatibles: God and mammon (6:24)
 - (2) Encouragement: "Do not be anxious" (6:25-34)
 - b) Regarding one's neighbor (7:1-11)
 - (1) A triad on attitude toward others (7:1-6)
 - (a) Prohibition: "Do not judge" (7:1-2)
 - (b) Parable on vision: the log in one's eye (7:3-5)
 - (c) Parable about incompatibles: pearls and swine (7:6)
 - (2) Encouragement: "Ask, seek, knock" (7:7-11)
 - c) Concluding statement: the Golden Rule = the law and the prophets (7:12)
- IV. Three warnings: the prospect of eschatological judgment (7:13-27)**
- A. The two ways (7:13-14)
 - B. "Beware of false prophets" (7:15-23)
 - C. The two builders (7:24-27)
- V. Conclusion: the crowds and the mountain (7:28-8:1)**