

Structure of the Sermon on the Mount

(Matthew 5:1-8:1)

I: Inclusio (Latin: a shutting off, confinement) - a description of a passage of Scripture in which the opening phrase or idea is repeated, paraphrased, or otherwise returned to at the close. It serves to set the limit of a text or section of a text or theme. There are three Inclusions: 5:1-2 with 7:28-8:1; 5:3-16 with 7:13-27; 5:17-20 with 7:12. They serve to move us into and out of the main section of the Sermon—which focuses on the true righteousness of God, the righteousness of the kingdom.

