

The Temple, the Sermon on the Mount, and the Gospel of Matthew

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1. Temple Themes and Texts in the Sermon on the Mount

Sermon on the Mount	Psalms	Other Temple Texts	Pertinent Temple Themes
Into the mountain	24:1	Isa 2:2	Mountain of the Lord
Blessed (<i>makarioi</i>)	1:1 (+25 more times)		Celestial beatification
Rewards	19:11		Source of heavenly rewards
Poor (<i>ptōchoi</i>)	69:32 (+15x)		Beseeking and bowing down
Kingdom of God	145:11-13		God as eternal king
Mourning		Ezra 10:6	Sadness over covenant breaking
Comfort (<i>paraklēsis</i>)	94:19		Comfort and joy
Meekness (<i>praeis</i>)	76:2-9 (+8x)	Num 12:3	Like Moses, waiting on the Lord
Meek inherit the earth	37:9, 11, 18		Receiving peace and prosperity
Hungering	37:19; 107:9		Needing and seeking righteousness
Thirsting for God	42:2; 63:1; 107:9		Needing and seeking God
Righteousness	17:15 (+80x)		Divine justice
Filled (<i>chortasthēsontai</i>)	17:15 (+8x)		Beholding God's glory
Receiving mercy	5:7 (+171x)		Through covenantal fidelity
Pure in heart (<i>katharoi</i>)	24:4 (+6x)	Ex 25-Lev 24 (101x)	Entrance and purity requirements
Seeing God	17:15; 24:6; 63:2		Encountering God's glory
Peace, peacemakers	147:14 (+23x)	Isa Jer (49x)	Peace of complete atonement
Sons of God	2:7; 82:6	Job 38:7; Dt 32:8	Sonship, angels, deified beings
Persecution	7:1; 31:15; 35:3		Deliverance from persecution
Exclusion (<i>aphorisōsin</i>)	69:28; 109:13		Blotting out the wicked
Unjustly cursed, reviled	119:86, 161		Imprecations, swearing of oaths
Rejoice, rejoice	32:11 (+60x)		Cultic joy
Hallelujah (<i>agalliasthe</i>)	5:11; 32:11 (+51x)		Cultic exultation, singing
Salt of the earth	60:1	Lev 2:13	Salt of the covenant
Casting out (<i>ekballein</i>)	78:55; 109:10		Excluding evil, excommunication
Trodden underfoot	7:5 (+5x)	Isa (14x)	Judgment, humiliation
Light of the earth	27:1; 104:1-2		Light to the world
City on a mountain	48:2		Holy city, temple city
Lamp (<i>luchnos</i>)	18:28; 119:105		Word of God, God's Torah
Lampstand (<i>luchnia</i>)		Ex 25 (9x)	The Menorah (<i>luchnia</i>)
Letting light shine	31:16	Gen 1:1-3	Creation, Let there be light
Decalogue	19; 50:18-20	Ex 20:13, 14, 16	Daily temple Decalogue recitation
Anger	7:6; 56:7		The anger of the Lord
Prohibition of anger	37:7-9		Vengeance is only of the Lord
Judgment	(24x)		Judgment by temple councils
Gift (<i>dōron</i>)		Lev 1-9 (30x)	Sacrifice
Altar (<i>thusiastērion</i>)		Ex 27-Lev 10 (125x)	Altar of the Temple
Reconciliation		Lev 6:1-7	Unity and harmony
No adultery	50:14-19	Lev 18; Ezek 23:37	No infidelity, impurity, or idolatry
Purity of heart	24:4		Complete purity
Covenant marriage	Mal 2:14; Ezek 16		The creation of man and woman
Divorce (<i>apostasion</i>)	Hos 4; Lev 21		Requiring purity of priests

Right hand	16:7 (+38x)		Priest's use of right hand
Yes, yes		Dt 27; Num 5:22	Amen, amen
Oaths	50:5, 14	Num 30	Solemnizing obligations
God's throne in heaven	11:4 (+5x)		Throne of God, ark
In the name of the earth	Isa 66:1	Connecting heaven and earth	
City of the great king	48:2		Holy city of Jerusalem
Make hair white (<i>tricha leukē</i>)		Lev 13:2-10 (5x)	White hair of leprosy
Talion		Ex 21; Lev 24	Divine justice
Repay good for evil		Ex 23:4; 1Sam 24:17	Divine mercy
Slap on the cheek	3:7	Isa 50:6; Lam 3:30	Ritual humiliation of the king
Coat (<i>chitōn</i>)		Ex 28-Lev 16 (12x)	Linen garments of priests
Lend and give generously	37:26; 112:5	Dt 15:7-8	Caring for the poor
Love people (<i>agapaō</i>)	(+50x)	Lev 19:18	Love, peace, holiness
Pray for enemies	(<i>echroi</i> 108x)		Intercessory prayers
Sons of God	82:6		Fatherhood of God
God gives to all		1 Kings 8	Life-sustaining blessings
Sun over all	84:11		The Lord is a sun
Rain on all the earth	147:8		Ensuring rain
Perfect (<i>teleios = shalom</i>)	1:3; 65:1; 119:165	Dt 18:13; 2Sm 22:26	God's nature, gift for doing his will
Perfect (<i>teleiōsis</i>)		Ex 29-Lev 8 (11x)	The ram of "consecration"
Giving in secret			The Chamber of Secrets
Trumpets	81:3; 105:3 1	Chron 15:24	Music, heralding God
Glorify (<i>doxazein, doxa</i>)	22:23 (+65x)		Glorifying God
Prayer in secret	55:1	1 Kings 8 (hear 12x)	Being heard of God
Prayer	(37x)	Isa 56:7	House of prayer
God as Father	89:26; 103:13		Nomina sacra
Hallowed name, make holy	72:17; 103:1; 111:9	Sanctification	
Kingdom come	22:28; 45:6		Praising God
On earth as in heaven	135:6		Connecting heaven to earth
Daily bread	105:40	Ex 25:30	Manna, Bread of the Presence
Kingdom, glory, power	145:10-12	1 Chron 29:11	Doxology
Forgive	25:18; 32:1 (+6x)	Kings 8:30	Forgiveness
Fasting	35:11-14; 69:10	Lev 16	Self-abasement, humility
Anointing		Ex 40:15	Ritual anointing
Washing		2 Sam 12:20	Ritual washing
Treasures		Neh 10:37	Temple treasury, making vows
Light	27:1; 56:13		The Lord is Light
Seeing in the light	36:9; 119:130		Understanding, enlightenment
Reflecting the light	34:29	Ex 3:2	Transfiguration
Eye single (<i>haplous</i>)		Prov 11:25	Purity
Radiating light	38:10		The Temple as a beacon, lighthouse
Full of light	139:12		Driving away darkness
Serve the Lord only	2:11; 22:30 (+6x)	Ex 20:3	Temple service
Love the Master (<i>agapaō</i>)	(+50x)	Dt 6:4-5	Loving God
Cleave unto (<i>antechō</i>)		Prov 3:18; Isa 56:4	Loyalty to God
Necessities of life	23:5	1 Kings 8:35-39	Providing sufficient abundance

Anxiety	38:18		Worrying about sin
Stature, life span (<i>hēlikia</i>)		Sira 26:17	Unimprovable life, excellence
Cubit (<i>pēchus</i>)		Ex 25-38; Ez 40-46	Temple measurements (+120x)
Spin (<i>nēthousin</i>)		Ex 26-39 (10x)	Temple veil, garments, curtains
Clothes (<i>endumata</i>)	93:1; 104:1	Ex 28:2; Job 40:10	Holy garments
Grass is temporary	37:2 (+3x)		Temple is eternal
Seek first, all else added	37:4		Eternal promises
Judgment	7:8; 35:24 (+22x)		Eternal judgment, the Mercy Seat
Measure (<i>metron</i>)		Ezek 40-48 (+40x)	Divine order of creation
Measure for measure (talion)		Ex 21:24; Lev 24:20	Principle of divine justice
Speck, chip (<i>karpos</i>)		Gen 8:11	Evidence of divine peace
Beam (<i>dokos</i>)	1 Kings 6:15-16		Beams in the Temple
The holy (<i>hagion</i>)	2:6 (+59x)	Ex 26-Num (300x)	Guarding sacred things
Tear in pieces	50:5, 22		Punishing covenant breakers
Seek	69:32; 105:4	Isa 2:3	Seeking the Lord in his Temple
Bread, fish	23:5; 132:15		Sacred meals
Others (<i>plēsion</i>) as the self	15:3 (+10x)	Lev 19:18	Community, collectivity
Two ways (<i>hodos</i>)	1:6	Dt 30:19	Separating polar opposites
Gate (<i>pulēs</i>)	24:7-10; 118:19-20	Ex Num Ezek (38x)	Temple gates
False prophets		Jer (9x); Zech 13:2	Mismanagers of the Temple
Tree as archetype	1:1-3	Gen 3:3, 22	Tree of Life, individuals as trees
Works judged as fruits	58:11; 104:13; 128:3	God's judgment	
Vine and fig		1 Kings 4:5	Blessing the righteous
Thornbushes and thistles		Gen 3:19	Cursing sinners, the fallen state
Lord, Lord	116:4		Invoking the name of the Lord
Knowing God		Amos 3:2	Covenant making
Entering	118:26	Isa 33:17	Entering into the Lord's Presence
Excluding iniquity (<i>anomia</i>)	6:8, 141:4		Defeating evil
Wise man (<i>phronimos</i>)	94:8	Prov, Sir (26x)	Wisdom
Upon the rock	27:5	Num 20:8; Jdg 13:19	Temple, mountain, altar
Foolish man (<i>mōros</i>)	94:8	Sira (28x)	Lack of Wisdom
Upon the sand		Ezek 13:10-11	Chaos, false prophets
Floods	78:16; 93:3; 105:41	Cosmic floods, destruction of evil	

John W. Welch, *The Sermon on the Mount in the Light of the Temple* (London: Ashgate, 2009)

2. The Sermon on the Mount Seen in Twenty-Five Stages of Ascent

Jesus and his disciples go up “into the Mountain” (5:1; compare Exodus 19:20; 24:13)

- 1: A promise of ultimate heavenly blessings is given (the Beatitudes, 5:3–12)
- 2: A charge is given, with a warning, to become the salt of the earth (5:13)
- 3: A calling is given to be a light unto the world to the glory of God (5:14–16)
- 4: Obligation imposed to obey and teach the fullness of the law and prophets (5:17–20)
- 5: Anger, ill-speaking, and ridicule of brothers are prohibited (5:21–22)
- 6: All animosities are reconciled before gifts are given at the altar (5:23–26)
- 7: Sexual fidelity is required before, during, and after marriage (5:27–32)
- 8: Oaths are sworn along this path only by saying “yes, yes” or “no, no” (5:33–37)
- 9: Disciples agree to do good and to pray for all people, including enemies (5:38–47)
- 10: Gifts of sun and rain upon all are promised as blessings from heaven (5:45)
- 11: Passing from that first level into a higher order of perfection (5:48)
- 12: Donations are given voluntarily and inconspicuously to the poor (6:1–4)
- 13: Prayers are offered without fanfare, both in private and as a group (6:5–13)
- 14: Forgiveness is given and is commensurately received (6:14–15)
- 15: Fasting, washing, and anointing are done in a secret setting (6:16–18)
- 16: Treasures are consecrated with singleness of heart in loving service to God (6:19–24)
- 17: Assurances of sufficient food, drink and glorious clothing are received (6:25–34)
- 18: In preparing for the final judgment, people judge themselves, not others (7:1–5)
- 19: A curse is placed on those who inappropriately disclose that which is holy (7:6)
- 20: A threefold petition is made: asking, seeking, and knocking (7:7–8)
- 21: Good gifts are received from the Father, and gifts are given as he gives (7:9–12)
- 22: The righteous enter through a narrow opening that leads into life (7:13–14)
- 23: They enjoy and bear the fruits of the tree of life, not of corruptness (7:15–20)
- 24: Doing God’s will, they are allowed to enter into his presence and kingdom (7:21–23)
- 25: They then build upon this rock by hearing and doing these things (7:24–27)

3. Individual Themes Escalating in the Path of Ascent in the Sermon on the Mount

Theme	Regarding Others (Matthew 5)	Regarding One's Self (Matthew 6)	Regarding God (Matthew 7)
Kingdom	Teach others (5:19)	Help Kingdom come (6:10)	Enter the Kingdom (7:21)
Reconcile	With brother (5:24)	Remove own mote (7:4)	Not cast out by God (7:21)
Prayer	For enemies (5:44)	Seeking forgiveness (6:12)	Asking gifts from God (7:11)
Generosity	Give if asked (5:40)	Give in secret (6:3)	Give as God gives (7:12)
Punishment	Salt is useless (5:13)	Cut off hand or eye (5:29)	Trampled and torn (7:6)
Punisher	Community (5:13)	Personal protect self (5:30)	Divine instruments (7:6)
Talion	Good for evil (5:44)	Forgiven as forgive (6:14)	Judges as we judged (7:2)
Bread	Daily for all (6:11)	Life is more (6:25)	Father gives if asked (7:9)
Love	Love thy neighbor (22:39)	As thyself (22:39)	Love the Lord thy God (22:37)

See John W. Welch, *The Sermon on the Mount in the Light of the Temple*, 205-207.

4. Ceremonial Actions that Could Have Accompanied Uses of the SM

Singing pertinent psalms at certain points in the ritual

Hand gestures of blessing to accompany the pronouncing of “blessed”

Making themselves “poor” by falling prostrate before God

“Mourning” over problems, followed by embraces of “comfort”

Receiving a new name (compare Rev 2:17) as part of being “born” as “sons of God,” name transmission being frequently found as part of rituals

Responding with a shout of joy as do the sons of God (see Job 38:7); shouting “hallelujah” in the face of impending maledictions and persecutions

Pouring out salt on the ground and dramatically trampling it underfoot

Lighting lamps in a dark room and setting them on a menorah

Reciting the Ten Commandments

Pausing to reconcile with others in preparation for making some offering

Accepting the covenantal requirements by repeating back “yes, yes” or “no, no”

Slapping an initiate on one cheek (as in the ritual humiliation of the king), and having the initiate then turn the other cheek

Asking an initiate to surrender a tunic and, in response, having him give not only his undergarment but also his outer garment, thus becoming stripped of all worldly things

Offering a prayer of blessing for enemies and opponents

Anonymously collecting alms or offerings

Allowing some time for private meditation and secret prayer

Reciting a collective prayer (one recalls that the Lord’s Prayer immediately became part of early Christian liturgy)

Having come fasting, the participants are washed with water and anointed with oil

Making vows to consecrate or treasure up property to the Lord

Marking the initiates as slaves who belong completely to the true Master

Receiving a garment more glorious than Solomon’s (Mt 6:29)

Standing before a judge and confessing one’s sins (thereby removing a beam from one’s own eye)

Tearing to pieces, trampling on, and throwing out something that represents the initiate, dramatizing the fate of those who inappropriately talk about the holy thing

Making a threefold petition (knocking, asking, and seeking) requesting admission into the presence of deity

Eating food and drink, fish and bread, figs and grapes, in a sacred meal

Passing, one by one, through a narrow opening into the symbolic presence of God, and being there received and recognized by God

See John W. Welch, *The Sermon on the Mount in the Light of the Temple*, 202-205.

5. Temple of Solomon, Mountain of the Lord, and the Sermon on the Mount

Entrance Requirements (5:3-11)

Self-effacing, mourning
 hungering for righteousness
 Merciful, pure in heart (cf. Ps 24)
 Making peace, suffering
 Fasting, washing, anointing (6:17)
 denied to some (5:13; 7:23)

Hidden Place

In *tōi kryptō* (6:4, 6, 18) Meek,
to hagian (7:6)

Ark of the Covenant

Law Tablets (5:18)
 Manna (cf. 6:11) Entrance
 Mercy-seat (5:45;
 6:14, 30; 7:11)

Ten Commandments

Read daily (5:21, 27, 33)
 Judgment, Sanhedrin (5:22)
 Adultery (Num 5, M Sotah 2:2)
 Return good for evil (5:38)
 Judge righteously, if at all (7:1-5)

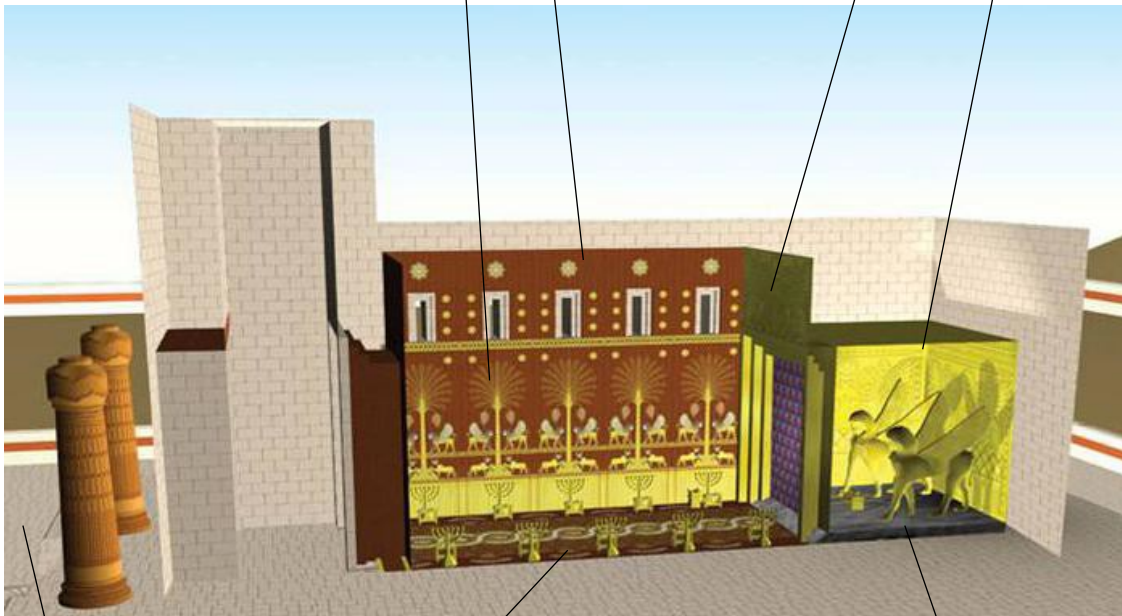
Menorahs

Candlestick
(luchnia, 5:15)

Veil

Entering through a
 narrow gate (7:13)

Shewbread
 (cf. daily bread, 6:11)



Courtesy Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship, Brigham Young University

Altar (5:23)

Sacrifice, salt (5:13)
 Oaths (5:37)
 (yea, yea, Num 5:22)
 Alms (6:3)
 Vows, dedication
 (treasures in heaven, 6:19)
 Prayer (6:5-13)
 Atonement for sin
 (forgiveness, 6:14)

The Hekal, Holy Place

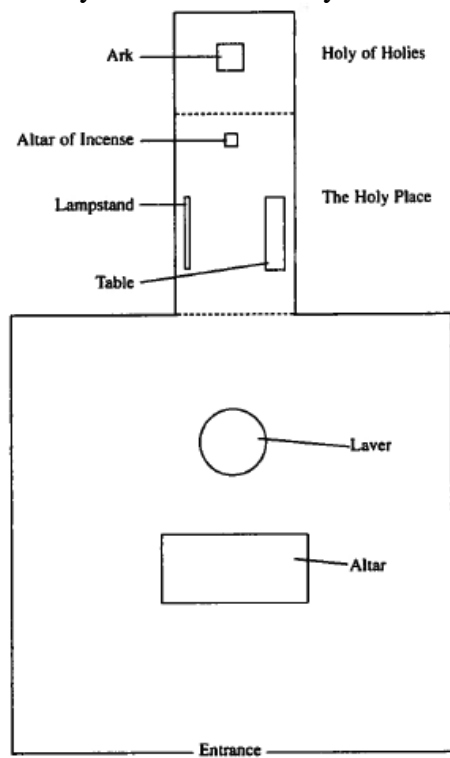
Days 2-6 of Creation, Eden
 Light (5:14)
 Light and darkness (6:23)
 Sun, rain (5:45)
 Grass, flowers (6:28, 30)
 Two trees (7:18)
 Tree yielding fruit (7:17)
 Fowls of the air (6:26)
 Man and wife (5:27-32)
 Garment of skin/light (6:29-30)

The Holy of Holies

God's presence (7:21)
 Perfection (5:48)
 Name hallowed (6:9)
 Will of God (6:10)
 Doxology (6:13)
 Purity (6:22)
 Asking God (7:7)
 God will give (7:11)
 The Rock (7:25)
 (cf. shetiyyah-stone)

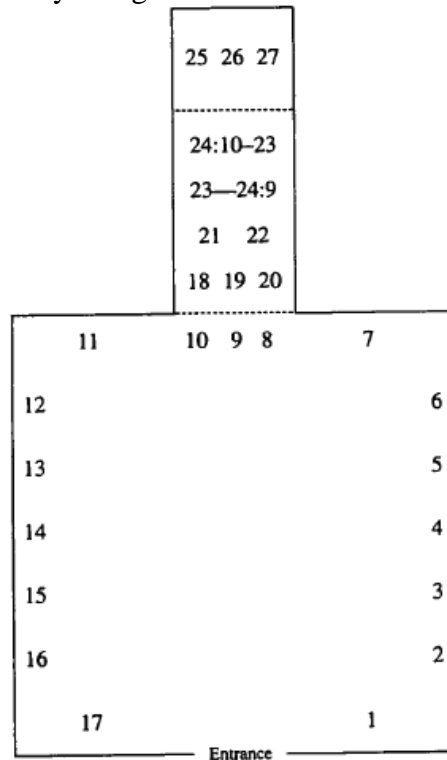
6A. Floor Plan and Furnishings of the Tabernacle

Courtesy Oxford University Press



6B. Leviticus 1-27 Set in the Tabernacle

Per Mary Douglas and Duane L. Christensen



7.	Matthew Words	English	SM Source Words	SM
10:26	<i>mē phobeisthe</i>	fear not/worry not	<i>mē merimnate</i>	6:25
10:29	<i>strouthia</i> <i>patros hymōn</i>	sparrows/fowls your father	<i>peteina</i> <i>patēr hymōn</i>	6:26
10:30	<i>triches</i>	each hair numbered	<i>tricha</i>	5:36
10:41-42 [3x]	<i>misthon</i>	reward	<i>misthos</i>	5:12, 46
11:11	<i>mikroteros</i>	least	<i>elachistos</i>	5:19
	<i>en tēi basileiai tōn ouranōn</i>	in the kingdom of heaven	<i>en tēi basileiai tōn ouranōn</i>	
12:33	<i>poiēsate dendron kalon</i> <i>karpon kalon</i> <i>dendon sapron</i> <i>ex tou karpou to dendron</i> <i>ginōsketai</i>	make tree good X fruit good tree bad X by the fruit the tree is known	<i>dendron agathon poiei</i> <i>karpous kalous</i> <i>sapron dendron</i> <i>apo tōn karpōn autōn</i> <i>epignōsesthe</i>	7:17 7:16 X
12:35	<i>agathos, agatha</i> <i>ponēros ponēra</i>	good, good X evil, evil	<i>ou agathon ponērous</i> <i>ou sapron kalous</i>	7:18
12:50	<i>poiēsei to thelēma tou patros mou tou en ouranois</i>	do the will of my Father who is in heaven	<i>poiōn to thelēma tou patros mou tou en tois ouranois</i>	7:21
15:19	<i>ek tēs kardias</i>	from/in the heart	<i>en tēi kardiai</i>	5:28
15:29	<i>anabas eis to oros</i>	into the mountain	<i>anabē eis to oros</i>	5:1
18:3	<i>eiselthēte eis tēn basileian</i>	enter into kingdom	<i>eiseleusetai eis tēn basileian</i>	7:21
18:4	<i>meizōn en tēi basileiai</i>	great/est in kingdom	<i>me gas en tēi basileiai</i>	5:19
18:8	<i>cheir skandalizei</i> <i>ekkopson, bale apo sou kalon soi</i>	hand/right offends cut, throw from you better for you	<i>dexia cheir skandalizei</i> <i>ekkopson, bale apo sou sympheri soi</i>	5:30
18:9	<i>ophthalmos skandalizei</i> <i>exele, bale apo sou kalon soi</i>	eye/right eye offends cut, throw from you better for you	<i>ophthalmos skandalizei</i> <i>ekkopson, bale apo sou sympheri soi</i>	5:29 X
18:21,27	<i>aphēsō, aphēken</i>	forgive	<i>aphēs, aphēkamen</i>	6:12-15
18:24,28	<i>opheiletēs, opheileis</i>	debts, owe	<i>opheiletais</i>	6:12
19:7	<i>dounai, apostasiou gamēsēi moichatai</i>	give, divorcement marries adultery	<i>dotō, apostasion gamēsēi moichatai</i>	5:31-32
19:21	<i>thēsauron en ouranōi</i>	treasure/s in heaven	<i>thēsaurus en ouranōi</i>	6:20
	<i>teleios</i>	perfect	<i>teleioi</i>	5:48
20:8	<i>misthon</i>	reward	<i>misthon</i>	6:1-2, 16
21:22	<i>aitēsēte, lēmpsesthe</i>	ask, receive/given	<i>aiteite, dothēsetai</i>	7:7
22:40	<i>nomos kai prophētai</i>	law and prophets	<i>nomos kai prophētai</i>	7:12
25:11-12	<i>kurie kurie</i>	Lord Lord	<i>kurie kurie</i>	7:22
	<i>ouk oida hymas</i>		<i>oudepote egnōn hymas</i>	7:23
25:41	<i>poreuesthe ap' emou hoi katēranenoi</i>	depart from me ye cursed/workers	<i>apochōreite ap' emou hoi ergazomenoi</i>	7:23

8. Selected SM Verbiage and Echoes Found Elsewhere in the New Testament

SM Matt 5-7	Mark	Luke	1 Peter	James	Romans
Blessed (<i>makarioi</i>)		14:15		1:12	14:22
be the poor		6:20			
the hungry		6:21			
merciful/mercy (<i>eleos</i>)				2:13	
sons of God					8:14
reviled (<i>oneidizō</i>)		6:22-23	4:14		
persecuted (<i>dikaiosynēn</i>)			3:14 [x]		
Reward (<i>misthos</i>)		10:7		5:4	
Salt is good, savor	9:50	14:34-35			
Lamp under bushel	4:21	8:16			
See your <i>kala</i> works			2:12 [x]		
Glorify God (<i>doxasōsin</i>)			2:12		
Fulfill the law					8:4
Not one tittle		16:17			
Shun anger (<i>orgē</i>)				1:19-20	
No insulting a brother					14:10
Reconcile with brother/all	11:18				
Settle lawsuits quickly		12:58-59			
Lust (<i>epithymia</i>) and sin				1:14-15	
Cut off eye/hand	9:43-48 [x]				
Divorce	10:11-12	16:18			
Oath, heaven, earth, yea, nay				5:12	
Return not evil for evil					12:17 [x]
Turn the other cheek		6:29-30			
Love your enemies		6:27-28, 32-35			12:20
Overwhelm evil in good					12:21
Pray for, bless persecutors					12:14
Be perfect [be merciful] (<i>teleioi</i>)		[6:36]		1:4; 3:2	
Not as hypocrites			2:1		
In secret	4:22				
The Lord's Prayer		11:2-4			
Father					8:15
Forgive (<i>aphēo</i>)	11:25-26				
God temptation (<i>peirazō</i>)				1:13	
Treasure in heaven, thief		12:33-34			
Eye single		11:34-36			
Mammon		16:13			
Worry (<i>merimnate</i>)		12:22-34	5:7		
Judge not (<i>krinō</i>)				4:11	2:1; 14:10
What judgment you judge	4:24	6:37-38, 41-42			
Ask and be given	11:24			1:5-6	
Knock, open		11:9-13			
Good (<i>agatha</i>) gifts (<i>domata</i>)				1:17	
Golden rule		6:31			
Narrow door		13:23-24			
Tree known by its fruit		6:43-44			
figs (<i>syka</i>) and grapes/vine				3:12 [x]	
Lord, Lord		6:46			
Depart from me		13:25-27			
Hear and do (<i>akouō poieō</i>)				1:22 [x]	
Built (<i>themelioō</i>)			5:10		
Upon the rock		6:47-49			

Note: [x] = chiasmic, Seidel's Law

9. Duties of the Levites

Singing and providing music in the Temple in twenty-four concourses, two weeks a year (1 Chron 25; 2 Chron 5:12; 34:12).

Standing to thank and **praise God** every morning and evening (1 Chron 23:30)

Caring for the courts, rooms, store-houses and treasuries of the temple (1 Chron 23:28)

Cleansing everything that is holy, the sacred vestments and vessels (1 Chron 23:28)

Serving as **custodians** of the ark (Deut 10:8)

Transporting, maintaining, and **handling** of cultic items (Num 3-4; 8:5-22)

Setting out the **shewbread** and providing the wafers of unleavened bread (1 Chron 23:29)

Preparing the flour for the cereal **offerings**, the baked offering, the offering mixed with oil

Overseeing standards of **measurement** of number and amount (1 Chron 23:29)

Making all kinds of **burnt offerings** at time and in the number required (1 Chron 23:31)

Slaughtering the sacrificial victims and serving the people (Ezek 44:6-14)

Keeping charge of the sanctuary, **guarding** the gates, opening and closing the outer gates, guarding the doors 24 hours a day (1 Chron 26:1-19)

Teaching people in general (Deut 24:8; 33:10; 2 Chron 35:3; Neh 8:7)

Teaching the **law** (2 Chron 17:7-9)

Instructing the king (Deut 17:18-20)

Judging and acting as officers of the law (2 Chron 19:8, 11); and as sheriffs, police, law **enforcers** (1 Chron 23:4). In the time of Ezra, they were the sole members of the Sanhedrin (Deut 17:8-9; 21:5; Ezek 44:15, 24)

Collecting the annual temple **tax, tithing, and donations** to the temple (Neh 10:38-39)

Functioning as **temple agents** outside cultic sanctity (Ezek 44:11; 46:24)

Rendering **medical** services (Lev 13:2; 14:2; Luke 17:14)

Acting as architects and **builders** in repairing the Temple (2 Chron 34:8-13)

Serving as "**scribal and administrative mediators** between the public and the ruling Aaronides" (LPBHT 2)

"Presiding over teaching, worship, and **inquiries of the deity**" (LPBHT 182)

Overseeing the **temple library** and interpreting scripture: "At the outset of the Hellenistic period, then, Levites remained firmly bound to the priestly faculty of the Jerusalem temple, . . . overseeing the collections of literature in the temple library, carrying out administrative duties and, most prominently, carrying scribal/**exegetical authority**" (LPBHT 220).

The Book of Jubilees "restricts the role of **legitimate scribes** and exegetes of Scripture to hereditary Levites" (LPBHT 222)

Acting as scribes and writing scripture. In the early Hellenistic era, "**literacy** and scribal skill are entirely restricted to those carrying Levite status. The authority to **compose and interpret Scripture** is an exclusive hallmark of the temple-bound priestly circles" (LPBHT 222-23; see 2 Chron 34:13).

10. Matthew's Levitical Vocabulary

Tithing: *anēthon*, “dill” (23:23) (the Talmud requires that people pay tithes on the seeds, leaves, and stem of dill or anise); *kuminon*, “cummin” (23:23)

Temple treasury and the bribe by the chief priests to Judas: *korbanas*, “temple treasury” (27:6); *statēr*, “stater, four drachmas, one shekel” (26:15); *kryphaios*, “secret, hidden,” chamber of secrets (6:18)

Temple layout: *exōteros*: “outer, outmost” (8:12, 22:13, 25:30) (used often in Ezekiel regarding temple areas, Ezek. 40:19, 20, 31; 41:15, 17; 42:1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14; 44:1, 19; 46:20, 21)

Purification and cleansing: *aponiptō*, “wash” (27:24); *diakatharizō*, “clean out, thresh out” (3:12); *diulizō*, “strain out, filter out” (23:24); *katamanthanō*, “consider, observe” (6:28) (inspect for purity in reporting contamination of a home, Lev 14:36)

God's presence or action: *hairtizō*: “choose, appoint” by the Spirit (12:18); *typhomai* “smolder, smoke” (12:20) (smoking flax not quenched until God appears, see Isa 42:3); *eklampō*, righteous ones “shine” as the sun (13:43); *prophthanō*, “come before, come unto” (17:25)

Pots and vessels: *paropsis*, “plate, dish” that Pharisees cleaned beyond the required pots (23:25); *aggeion*, “container, vessel” (25:4) (see Lev. 11:34, container for drink; Lev. 14:5, sacrificial vessel in cleansing of leper presided over by a priest; Num. 4:9, oil vessels in the tabernacle; Num. 5:17, vessel for holy water as part of the jealousy offering presided over by a priest; cf. Herodotus 4.2, vessel for holding money in the treasury)

Blood impurity: *haimorroēō*, “suffer a chronic bleeding” (9:20) (see Lev. 15:33)

Mixing seeds: *epispeirō*, “sow on top of” (13:25); *sunauxanomai*, “different plants growing together” (13:30)

Unclean animals: *kōnōps*, “gnat, mosquito” (23:24)

Prayer: *polulogia*, “many words, long prayer” (6:7); *battalogeō*, “babble, use many words” (6:7) (compare the Levites praying each day); *phylaktērion*, “phylactery” (23:5)

Sacrificial animals: *nossion*, “young bird” (23:37) (cf. Ps. 84:3); *sitistos*, “fattened” (22:4) (suitable for sacrifice)

Forgiveness: *eiallassomai*, “be reconciled to, make peace with” (5:24); *hebdomēkontakis*, “seventy times” (18:22) (God's vengeance in Gen. 4:24)

Oaths or vows: *katathematizō*, “curse, place oneself under a curse” (26:74); *epiorkeō*, “break an oath, swear falsely” (5:33)

Marriage: *epigambreuō*, “to marry according to the law” (22:24)

Teaching: *phrazō*, “explain, interpret” (15:15); *syntassō*, “direct instruct, order” (21:6); *kathēgētēs*, “teacher, leader, master” (23:10)

Writing: *iota*, “the letter iota” (5:18)

Watching over: *koustōdia*, “a guard” (27:65, 66, 28:11)

Evil spirits: *daimōn*, “demon, evil spirit, god” (8:31) (cf. Isa. 65:11)

Death and burial: *teleutē*, “death” (2:14); *taphē*, “burial place” (27:7); *egersis*, “resurrection” (27:53); *Barachias*, father of one Zacharias killed in the Temple (23:35)