

Learning is critical for a society to thrive, maybe even succeed! This is why places of learning are very common in probably every culture across the globe throughout all time. Moses said in **Deut 6:6-9**, “These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up...” From Solomon to Daniel, we see the importance of educating your next leaders (productive citizens).

One way to teach children quickly is repetition and helping them see patterns. One educational site said, “Patterns help children make predictions because they begin to understand what comes next. They also help children learn how to make logical connections and use reasoning skills. Patterns can be found everywhere in our daily lives and should be pointed out to small children.”

This is especially true when it comes to things of the spiritual nature, because we really don’t “see” them in the same way we see a dog or the sun.

Jesus wanted his “productive citizens” of his kingdom (that includes us!) to recognize the patterns of Godly living. Within the Sermon on the Mount, he addresses issues that were also commonly taught in the Greek philosophical schools: virtue, passions, and politics; but with a Godly twist. Perhaps more importantly he teaches using connective patterns that were commonly used in the Hebrew culture.

Using philosophical ideas (Greek) and literary patterns (Hebrew), Jesus was able to reveal the need for *reforming* and *maintaining* a life that would be pleasing to God. The point was that Jesus wanted all those who were present to truly understand how people should live in his kingdom.

Read **Matt 7:24-27**

What is rhetoric? And who developed it?

Name some ways that the Jews were influenced by Hellenization (adopting Greek culture):

How was Jesus describing a **reformed life** in **Matt 5:21-48**?

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 |   |   |

How was Jesus describing the way to **maintain that lifestyle** in **Matt 6:1- 7:12**?

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 |   |   |



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|----------|---------|------------|
| FAST     | GIVE    | GREEKS     |
| HATE     | HEBREWS | JESUS      |
| LOVE     | LUST    | MERCY      |
| PATTERNS | PRAY    | PRIORITIZE |

# Reform



# Maintain