

*Sermon on the Mount*, by Fra Angelico (1387–1455)

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While in residence at San Marco's, a Dominican monastery in Florence, Fra Angelico and his assistants were commissioned to decorate the meeting rooms and cells of the lay brothers, novices, and clergy. Many of the more than 40 frescoes depicted scenes of the crucifixion. One room that is slightly larger than the monks' cells and in close proximity to the magnificent library (commissioned and funded by Cosimo de' Medici) contains this fresco of the Sermon on the Mount. The room presumably functioned as a classroom. In Matthew 5, Jesus is presented as the "new Moses" whose teaching was intended not to destroy the law, but to fulfill it.