

The Sermon on the Mount

Week 1 – Introduction

Matthew 5:1, 2

I. Context

- a. Context is _____
- b. The whole of Matthew’s gospel emphasizes the fact that through Christ the kingdom has come. While there are aspects of this kingdom that are yet to be established, everyone who is born again through faith in Jesus enters the kingdom right now.
- c. The “kingdom of heaven”: The subset of God’s universal kingdom upon which the _____ work of Jesus is applied and from which _____ to Jesus is the norm.
- d. “kingdom” in SM = life in Christ

II. Audience

- a. Primary audience: _____
- b. Secondary audience: _____

III. Posture

- a. “He went _____ on the mountain”
 - i. A possible reference to _____ and Mt. Sinai (Ex. 19:3, Deut. 18: 15-20)
 - ii. Jesus is the new and BETTER Deliverer who will lead God’s people out of bondage to sin as He establishes His kingdom.
- b. “He sat _____”
 - i. The traditional position for a teacher in a synagogue or school
 - ii. Posture enhances both the significance and authority of his teaching

IV. Purpose

- a. "He opened His mouth"
- b. "And began to teach them"
- c. John Stott: "The purpose of the Sermon on the Mount is to describe what human life and community look like when they come under the gracious rule of God."
- d. The sermon on the Mount is a sermon for our _____!

Time to MARINATE....

- 1) At the beginning of today's message Aprile said that we are living among a generation of Christians who are seeking to become more like Jesus by ignoring His Words. How do you see this happening around you? Why do you think it's such a big temptation?
- 2) Describe a time when you recently felt the exhaustion of swimming upstream against the currents of our culture.
- 3) Why do you think it's important to understand that your life in Christ is life in a KINGDOM?
- 4) So let's assume that Matthew did intend for Jesus' ascent up the mountainside to parallel Moses' ascent up Mt. Sinai. What are some major DIFFERENCES between how God revealed himself at Sinai and how Jesus reveals himself here? Why might those differences be significant?
- 5) Every time you open God's Word, Jesus in effect "opens His mouth." How seriously are you taking His words?