

THE CALL TO BE DIFFERENT

Matthew 4:12 - 5:2

I. The CONTEXT of the Sermon

A. The *Historical* Context: God’s purpose to establish a _____ people (Leviticus 18:1-4)

1. The story of the OT is the narrative of Israel’s rejection of her _____ (1 Sam 8:19-20; Ezek 20:32).
2. The consequence of this rebellion: _____ (2 Kings 17:7-8, 19).
3. The promise of the prophets: Deliverance through the _____ (Matt. 4:14-16)

B. The *Cultural* Context (Matthew 4:25)

1. The Secular World (“Decapolis”) – worldliness and _____
2. The Religious World (“Jerusalem and Judea”) – formal, _____ religion

C. The *Literary* Context (Matthew)

1. Matthew’s Purpose: To demonstrate to the nation Israel that Jesus of Nazareth was Israel’s promised Messiah, and to explain why His earthly kingdom had not been established at His coming. He also showed that God’s kingdom is not restricted to Israel but is universal in its scope (28:18-20).
2. Matthew 1-4: Jesus’ credentials authenticated

PASSAGE	MEANS OF AUTHENTICATION
Chapter 1	By lineage
Chapter 2	By Gentile testimony (magi)
	By fulfillment of prophecy
Chapter 3	By the Forerunner
	By the Godhead (baptism)
Chapter 4	By victory over Satan (temptations)
	By miracles

3. The launching of Jesus’ public ministry: Matthew 4:

- a. The trigger: the arrest of John the baptizer (4:12)
- b. The base of operations: Capernaum in Galilee (4:13)
- c. The essential message: “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (4:17)
 - 1) This is identical to the message of John (3:2)
 - 2) Jesus was proclaiming the “good news of the kingdom” (4:23)
 - 3) The arrival of the kingdom was anticipated by the Jews because of the message of the OT prophets. This created a diversity of expectations on the part of Jesus’ audience.
 - 4) The “kingdom of heaven” = the “kingdom of God”
 - 5) The challenge of the message: repent (change direction) from sin.
 - 6) The reason for the response: the kingdom is “at hand.” That is, the kingdom has come close because the King is here.
- d. The accompanying ministry: Jesus healed every diseased person he encountered (4:23-24)
- e. The result: huge crowds came from all over Palestine to hear him and seek healing (4:24-25).

II. The CIRCUMSTANCE of the Sermon

- A. Geography: a mountain – possibly a symbol of _____
- B. The Audience
- In the foreground:
 - _____ : those who were committed to him (his primary audience)
 - _____ : those who were curious, but as yet uncommitted (secondary)
 - In the background:
 - The pagans: characterized by idolatry
 - The religious teachers: characterized by external religion
- C. The Nature of the “Sermon”: an _____ teaching session amplifying “the good news of the kingdom”

III. The CONTENT of the Sermon

- A. *Theme*: the “_____” (Reign) of God
- It is _____ rather than spatial; it has to do with _____ rather than territory.
 - It is less encompassing than God’s _____ rulership
 - God’s universal rulership includes everything and everyone, whether they like it or not (Psalm 93:1; 97:1; 99:1; Isa. 40; Matthew 28:18).
 - The “Kingdom of heaven” is limited to those who are “born from above” (John 3:3,5). It includes those who are acknowledging God’s rulership in their own lives through faith in his Son.
 - There is both a _____ and a _____ aspect to this kingdom.
 - With the coming of the King, the kingdom _____ come (Matt. 12:28; John 10:10) (“*already*”)
 - With the rejection of the King, the establishment of the kingdom in its *fullness* was _____ until (1) sin’s power was broken, and (2) the King returns to restore all things (Luke 19:11ff; Isa. 65:17; 66:22; 2 Pet. 2:13; Rev. 21-22; Rom. 8:21ff) (“*not yet*”).
 - The reign of God speaks of his _____ and, therefore, of the disciple’s whole-hearted _____ to that authority (Matt. 6:33; 7:21-23).
- B. *Subject*: _____
- C. Outline
- The disciple’s _____ (5:3-12): 8 blessings
 - The disciple’s _____ (5:13-16): 2 metaphors
 - The disciple’s _____ (5:17-48): 6 illustrations
 - The disciple’s _____ (6:1-18): 3 spiritual disciplines
 - The disciple’s _____ (6:19-34): 4 contrasting commitments
 - The disciple’s _____ (7:1-20) 4 affected relationships
 - The disciple’s _____ (7:21-27): 2 choices

IV. The CHALLENGE of the Sermon (Why Believers Today Should Study It)

- A. For disciples, the sermon constitutes _____. For those who are in “the crowd,” it is an _____
- B. The standards of the SM, which are beyond the reach of sinful humans, demonstrate the necessity of _____.
- C. Kingdom citizens should regard the SM as our Discipleship Manual describing “_____.” The SM shows us where we can _____ toward what we will _____.
- D. The SM shows us how to avoid _____ in life, on the one hand, and be assured of ultimate _____ on the other.