

Brandon Phillips / General

The King and His Glory / Sermon on the Mount/Plain; Salvation; Righteousness; Holiness / Matthew 5:1-2

As Jesus ascended the mountain to preach the Sermon on the Mount, He had four critical landscapes in view.

Pre-sermon Comments

“There are two competing worldviews in this current cultural moment. One is the Critical Social Justice view—which assumes that the world is divided between the oppressors and the oppressed (white, heterosexual males are generally viewed as “the oppressor”). The other is what I will refer to in these pages as the biblical justice view in order to avoid what I accuse the social-justice crowd of doing, which is immediately casting its opponents as being opposed to justice.” — **Voddie T. Baucham Jr.**, *Fault Lines: The Social Justice Movement and Evangelicalism's Looming Catastrophe*

Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired” - · (*Annals XV.44*).

Sermon Text

Matthew 4:23-5:2 LSB

²³ And Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. ²⁴ And the news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them. ²⁵ And large crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis

and Jerusalem and Judea and *from* beyond the Jordan. ¹ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. ² And He opened His mouth and *began to* teach them, saying,

Review

Matthew 9:17 LSB

¹⁷ “Nor do *people* put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out and the wineskins are ruined; but they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.”

Proposition and Outline

Jesus ascended the mountain to preach the Sermon on the Mount, He had four critical landscapes in view. You need to grasp Jesus’s view of the:

1. Geographical Landscape
2. Biblical Landscape
3. Political Landscape
4. Religious Landscape

You Need to Grasp Jesus’s View of the Geographical Landscape ([Matt 4:25-5:1](#))

Matthew 4:23 LSB

²³ And Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

Matthew 4:16 LSB

¹⁶ THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SITTING IN DARKNESS SAW A GREAT LIGHT, AND THOSE WHO WERE SITTING IN THE LAND AND SHADOW OF DEATH, UPON THEM A LIGHT DAWNED.”

Matthew 4:24 LSB

²⁴ And the news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them.

[Matthew 4:25](#) (LSB) ²⁵ And large crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan.

Matthew 5:1 LSB

¹ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

Matthew 2:13 LSB

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.”

Matthew 2:16 LSB

¹⁶ Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had carefully determined from the magi.

Exodus 1:16 LSB

¹⁶ and he said, “When you are helping the Hebrew women to give birth and see *them* upon the birthstool, if it is a son, then you shall put him to death; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live.”

Exodus 2:1-5 LSB

¹ And a man from the house of Levi went and took a daughter of Levi *as a wife*. ² And the woman conceived and bore a son; and she saw that he was beautiful, so she hid him for three months. ³ But she could not hide him any longer. So she took for him an ark of papyrus reeds and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she put the child into it and put *it* among the reeds by the bank of the Nile. ⁴ And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him. ⁵ And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the Nile, with her young women

walking alongside the Nile; and she saw the ark among the reeds and sent her maidservant, and she took it *to her*.

Matthew 2:15 LSB

¹⁵ And he remained there until the death of Herod, in order that what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled, saying, “OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON.”

Exodus 24:12 LSB

¹² Now Yahweh said to Moses, “Come up to Me on the mountain and remain there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commandment which I have written for their instruction.”

Deuteronomy 18:15 LSB

¹⁵ “Yahweh your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers; you shall listen to him.

[Matthew 5:1-2](#) (LSB) ¹ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. ² And He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying,

You Need to Grasp Jesus’s View of the Religious Landscape

Matthew 23:2 LSB

² saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses;

The Pharisees said, “Go back”; the Sadducees said, “Go ahead”; the Essenes said, “Go away”; and the Zealots said, “Go against.” The Pharisees were traditionalists; the Sadducees were modernists; the Essenes were separatists; and the Zealots were activists. ~ John MacArthur

[Matthew 22:37-39](#) (LSB) ³⁷ And He said to him, “‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ ³⁸ “This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ “And the second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’”

Matthew 5:20 LSB

²⁰ “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Right theology is essential; so are being contemporary in the right way, separating ourselves from worldliness, and taking stands on moral issues. But those external things must flow from right internal life and attitudes if they are to serve and please God. That has always been God’s way. ~ John MacArthur

1 Samuel 16:7 LSB

⁷ But Yahweh said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but Yahweh looks at the heart.”

Proverbs 4:23 LSB

²³ Guard your heart with all diligence, For from it *flow* the springs of life.

Deuteronomy 31:16–17 LSB

¹⁶ And Yahweh said to Moses, “Behold, you are about to lie down with your fathers; and this people will arise and play the harlot with the foreign gods of the land, into the midst of which they are going, and they will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have cut with them. ¹⁷ “Then My anger will be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them and hide My face from them, and they will be consumed, and many evils and troubles will find them, so that they will say in that day, ‘Is it not because our God is not among us that these evils have found us?’

Malachi 4:4–6 LSB

⁴ “Remember the law of Moses My servant, *even the* statutes and judgments which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel. ⁵ “Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and awesome day of Yahweh. ⁶ “And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to *their* children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land, devoting it to destruction.”

Deuteronomy 30:1–3 LSB

¹ “So it will be, when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you cause *these things* to return to

your heart in all the nations where Yahweh your God has banished you, ² and you return to Yahweh your God and listen to His voice with all your heart and soul according to all that I am commanding you today, you and your sons, ³ then Yahweh your God will return you from captivity and return *His* compassion on you, and He will gather you again from all the peoples where Yahweh your God has scattered you.

The Old Testament was characterized by Mount Sinai, with its law, its thunder and lightning, and its warnings of judgment and cursing. The New Testament is characterized by Mount Zion, with its grace, its salvation and healing, and its promises of peace and blessing. ~ John MacArthur

You Need to Grasp Jesus's View of the Political Landscape

John 18:36 LSB

³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be delivered over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not from here."

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 LSB

²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble. ²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may abolish the things that are, ²⁹ so that no flesh may boast before God. ³⁰ But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, ³¹ so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

[Isaiah 55:8-9](#) (LSB) ⁸ "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares Yahweh. ⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts."

Matthew 11:11 LSB

¹¹ “Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen *anyone* greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Conclusion:

Ephesians 2:8–9 LSB

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not of works, so that no one may boast.

The Lord’s Table

Luke 22:14–22 LSB

¹⁴ And when the hour had come, He reclined *at the table*, and the apostles with Him. ¹⁵ And He said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶ for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” ¹⁷ And when He had taken a cup *and* given thanks, He said, “Take this and share it among yourselves. ¹⁸ “For I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes.” ¹⁹ And when He had taken *some bread and* given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.” ²⁰ And in the same way *He took* the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood. ²¹ “But behold, the hand of the one betraying Me is with Me on the table. ²² “For indeed, the Son of Man is going as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!”

If the Holy Spirit has laid anything on your heart in the preaching of this sermon, please contact one of the leaders or speak to a mature Christian to answer your questions. I can be contacted at brandon.phillips@gracegainesville.org.