

THE GREAT SERMON OF THE GREAT KING
(Matthew 5:1-2)

I. Its CONTEXT

A. The BIBLICAL context

1. A REAFFIRMATION of the Old Testament
2. A CLARIFICATION of the Old Testament
3. A NULLIFICATION of Jewish TRADITION
4. A PREPARATION for understanding SALVATION

B. The POLITICAL context

1. People longed for political INDEPENDENCE
2. Jesus said nothing about POLITICS or social REFORM
3. He defined GREATNESS in SHOCKING terms

C. The RELIGIOUS context

1. The Pharisees focused on obeying the LAW and TRADITION
2. The Sadducees were religious LIBERALS and MATERIALISTS
3. The Essenes lived AUSTERE lives SEPARATED from society
4. The Zealots were fanatical NATIONALIST and radical ACTIVISTS

II. Its IMPORTANCE

A. Shows the absolute necessity of REGENERATION

- B. PROPELS the listener to CHRIST
 - C. Provides God's pattern for SATISFACTION and SUCCESS
 - D. Describes the only life that is PLEASING to GOD
- III. Its SETTING (Matt. 5:1)
- A. The PREACHER was JESUS
 - 1. Spoke on His own AUTHORITY as God's SON
 - 2. It was organized THEMATICALLY
 - B. The LOCATION was on an unidentified MOUNTAIN
 - C. The STYLE was FORMAL instruction
- IV. Its CONTENTS (Matt. 5:2)
- A. He SPOKE the words of GOD (cf. Ezek. 3:26; 33:22)
 - B. His message is applicable TODAY
 - 1. The text implies IMMEDIATE application
 - 2. Elsewhere in the NT its principles are applied to CONTEMPORARY believers
 - 3. Some of the teachings would be MEANINGLESS in the Millennium
 - 4. God CONSTANTLY demands things we CANNOT do on our own, then commands that we rely on HIM
 - 5. A life of such righteousness will be attainable only in the RESURRECTION, not in the MILLENNIUM