

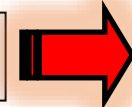
Preparing the Way

For a moment, imagine that **YOU** are JESUS! You have a divine mission that will end with the cross and your resurrection. Three Things Are Before You:

How do you keep from becoming a forgotten historical story?

How do you get the world then and in future generations to know your story?

The central element in all of this is that the people must believe. How do you accomplish that?



Making this more difficult is that you are dealing with people who are content, busy and saturated with sin

Four Challenges Jesus Faced:

- _____
- _____ to work in _____
- _____ hearts of opposition
- Direct _____ upon what He was doing and who He was

The Times

A. Galatians 4:4 states, "But when the fullness of time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law."

- How many years after Isaiah's prophecies did Jesus arrive? _____
- What was unique about the time Jesus came to earth? _____

The People

Matthew 15:24 I was sent only to the _____ of Israel

Five Qualities Within the People Jesus Began With:

1. They believed in God's _____ word
2. They were _____ of Jehovah
3. They understood the role of priests and sacrifices
4. They had the _____ about the Messiah
5. They were _____ and _____

John 10:4 "...and the sheep follow him because they _____ his voice"

The Places

- More than 70% of Jesus' teaching was on the North side of the Sea of Galilee
- What would Jesus find in these regions?

The First Ones

Jesus began with a handful of chosen disciples

- How would you describe the "twelve"?

Became Assessable

- Matthew 4:17 "From that time Jesus began to preach and say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.'"

This is the same message that John preached (3:21).

- Matthew 4:23-25 the sick are healed and the crowds grow

Augustine (354-430 A.D.): "Truth divides. Love unites. Love me and then you can tell me anything."



Jesus was making a _____ improvement in the lives of many
 Jesus was doing what _____ else could



The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5-7 Records the Early Sermon of Jesus

- Begins with Jesus sitting down. What is significant about that?
- He does not start with "I am God" but describes what a citizen in the kingdom is like
- Emphasis is "personal" (YOU/YOUR)
- The message is personal

I came to fulfill the law (5:17)

He expected the Law to be obeyed (5:18-19)

What is your take-away from the start of this sermon?

1. Why do you think Jesus did not begin with "I am the Messiah"?
2. What was Jesus' "agenda" or purpose with this sermon?
3. As we talk with others, how is this a model for us?

- Personal anger (21)
 - root of it (22)
 - how to fix it (23-26)
- Personal Lust (27)
 - root of it (28)
 - how to fix it (29-32)
- Personal Promises (33)
 - root of it (34-35)
 - how to fix it (36-37)
- Personal vengeance (38)
 - how to fix it (39-42)
- Personal relationships (43)
 - how to fix it (44-47)

The Sermon on the Mount

- 9x Jesus refers to the Kingdom
- 6x Righteous(ness) is used
 - Ch 5: towards others
 - Ch 6: towards God
 - Ch 7: towards self

4. This sermon begins with eight beatitudes and ends with the foolish man's house crashing during a storm. Would you classify this sermon as "deep"?
5. How would you classify the beatitudes? Random qualities or is there a connection and an order among them?