

“Upstream – The Sermon on the Mount”

February 19, 2012

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Why study the Sermon on the Mount?

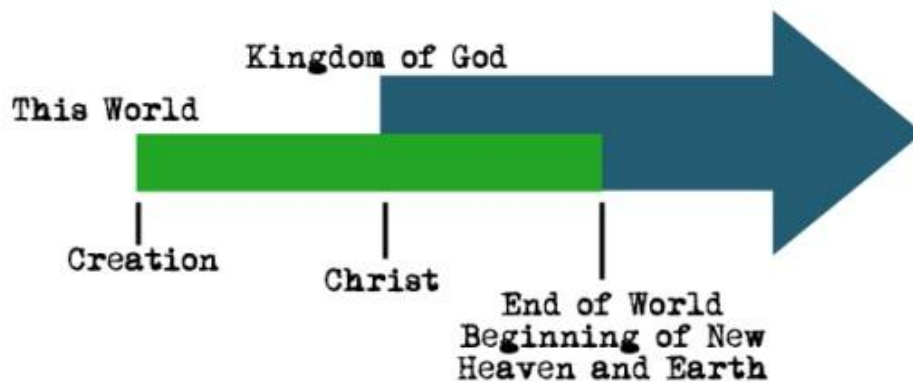
- Because the Sermon on the Mount has influenced _____ than any other words ever spoken.

What’s the main point of the Sermon on the Mount?

- The Sermon on the Mount is about what _____ in the Kingdom of God.

What is the Kingdom of God?

- The Kingdom of God happens _____ God’s will is done - whenever and wherever God is truly reigning.
- The Kingdom of God is _____ (Matthew 12.28) but _____ here.



Why is it important to understand this?

What difference should it make in our lives today?

- Because we live in those “in-between” times we _____ which set of values we’ll follow.
- The Sermon on the Mount was Jesus’ way of showing his disciples what it looked like _____ in the middle of this world.

The Sermon on the Mount summarized in five words:

- Matthew 6.8: _____
- The Sermon on the Mount calls us to a life where we are empowered by God’s Spirit to _____ than the world around us - even when it is hard.

Why are we putting such an emphasis on this text in this way at this time?

- Because nothing will help you grow in your faith as much as _____ in Bible study.
- Resources to go deeper in your personal study can be found at www.rcctulsa.org
- Our tendency is always to _____ the culture around us, so we have to _____ against that tendency.
- When the church is _____ than the world the church has _____ the world.

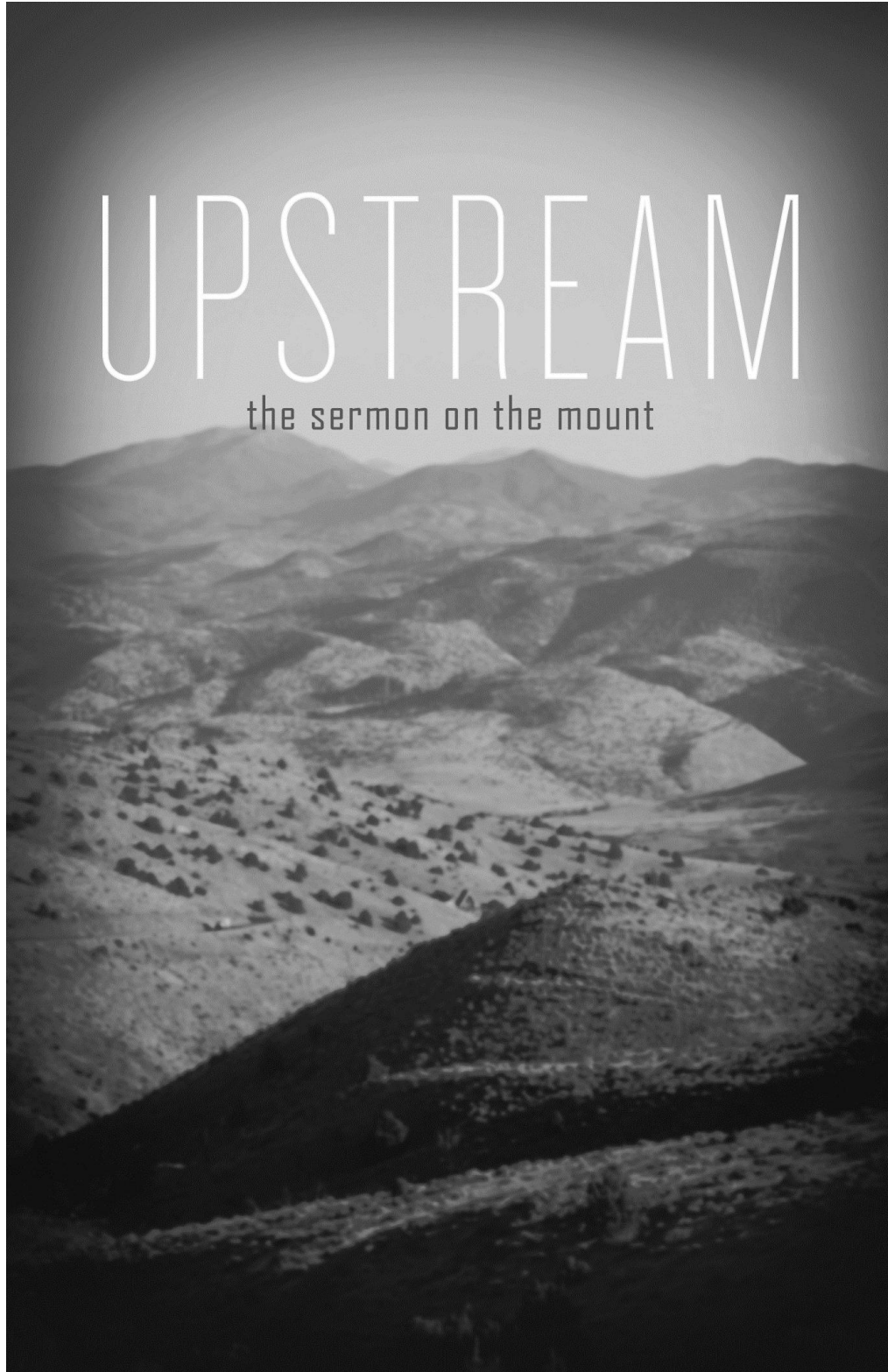
Talk it over...with your friends, family, or Growth Group

Talking through the ideas presented in Sunday's message helps us apply God's word to our individual lives. These questions are designed to help you put His words into action in your life this week.

- In what ways do you feel like you live differently than the world around you? In what ways do you feel like you don't?
- What is the most challenging thing for you when it comes to having a foot in both this world and in the Kingdom?
- Why do you think God had you here today? What do you need to do as a result of what you've experienced here today?

Some next steps: Here are some things you can do this week to dig deeper:

- Spend some time this week on our website looking at the different resources that we have provided to help you engage in personal study of the Sermon on the Mount. Which ones are most appealing to you? How do you plan to engage in this study either as an individual, with your family, or as part of a group?
- What other resources, training, or opportunities could we provide to help you engage in this study for yourself? We feel strongly that prayerfully engaging in the study of these words of Jesus can change your life—so if there is something we can do to help please contact us at sermons@rcctulsa.org
- This week spend some time each day reading through the Sermon on the Mount. As you read pay particular attention to the beginning of the sermon, Matthew 5.1-16. That's the passage that Joe will be preaching on next Sunday. Prayerfully study it for yourself so that when you come the sermon can feel more like a conversation than a monologue.



UPSTREAM

the sermon on the mount