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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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The Politics of Jesus Matthew 5:1-20

Central Passage

Matthew 4:25–5:2 (ESV) — 25 And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan. 1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

Central Thought: The politics of Jesus is based on the fact that Jesus is King now, and that he is calling all men and women to work with him for the Glory of God and the Good of their Neighbors until his kingdom comes in its fullness.

On the Politics of Jesus...

❖ The Context – The Kingdom of God (Heaven) – Matt. 4:23-25

- Jesus speaks and acts as a king requiring devotion, not a politician seeking votes.

Matthew 5:21–22 (ESV) — 21 "You have heard that it was said ...**But I say to you** ..."

John 18:36 (ESV) — 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."

Revelation 5:13 (ESV) — 13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

❖ The Content – The Beatitudes – Matt. 5:2-11

- The poor, the persecuted and the peacemakers are honored over and against those seeking privilege, power and position.

Luke 18:14 (ESV) — 14 ...For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (See also Luke 18:9-14)

❖ The Call – Salt and Light – Matt.5:13-16

- The primary call and vocation of the followers of Jesus is to be ambassadors for *his* kingdom.

2 Corinthians 5:18–20 (ESV) — 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us...

❖ The Consummation – The Fulfilment of the Law of God and the Coming Kingdom – Matt. 5:17-20

- The followers of Jesus, while working for good within earthly political systems, are looking beyond human achievement to divine rescue and restoration.

Revelation 21:1–5 (ESV) — 1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." 5 And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new..."