

PEOPLE, PARTIES AND SECTS

/ Craig Rees

On
STUMP
the

In seasons of clear disagreement and open division, Jesus models stepping in and living out not stepping back and closing rank.

On
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Matthew 5

p.968

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A Special Person with a Special Message (5:1b)

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The

“He went up on a mountainside and sat down.”

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| Moses | Jesus |
|--|---|
| Born while God's people were suffering under a cruel leader (Ex. 1:8) | Born while God's people were suffering under a cruel leader |
| Leader tried to kill babies (Ex. 1:16-22) | Leader tried to kill babies (Matt. 2:16) |
| Hid in Egypt as a child (Ex. 2:2) | Hid in Egypt as a child (Matt. 2:13) |
| Raised by a man who was not his father (Ex. 2:9-10) | Raised by a man who was not his father (Matt. 1:18-25) |
| Remained in a foreign land until the ruler died (Ex. 2:23; 4:19) | Remained in a foreign land until the ruler died (Matt. 2:20) |
| Ascended a mountain to receive the Law (Ex. 19:3; 24:16-17; Deut. 9:9) | Ascended a mountain to bring a new commandment (Matt. 5:1) |
| Fasted for forty days and nights (Ex. 34:28) | Fasted forty days and nights (Matt. 4:2) |
| Prepared for ministry through time in the wilderness (Ex. 2:15) | Prepared for ministry through time in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-11) |
| Pentateuch (5) attributed to Moses | 5 speeches given by Jesus (Matthew 5-7; 10, 13, 18, 22-25) |

| Moses | Jesus |
|--|--|
| Ascended the Mountain to be taught God's will | Ascended the mountain to teach God's will |
| Moses ascends the mountain to worship | Jesus ascends the mountain and is worshipped (Matt. 28:17) |
| Moses' face shone from his encounter with God on the mountain (Ex. 34:29-35) | Jesus is completely transfigured and his glory outlasts both Moses and Elijah (Matt. 17:1-9) |
| Moses spoke in the name of God | Jesus speaks in his own name (5:21-48) |

On
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“While Matthew presents Jesus as Moses-like, he does not depict him as a new Moses but as Lord, the son of God.”

[David E. Garland, “Reading Matthew,” p.52]

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A Special Mission for a Special Season (5:1a)

On
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“Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down.”

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On The

“Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down.”

On
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The

The crowds aren't there because they are religious.
They are there because they are restless.

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On The

| Sadducees | Pharisees | Essenes | Zealots |
|--|------------------------------|---|--|
| Wealthy conservatives | Middle Class reformationists | Communal Exclusivists | Radical revolutionists |
| <p>Controlled the government</p> <p>Battled for power. Sadducees controlled the government but were afraid of the control the Pharisees had of the people.</p> | <p>Controlled the people</p> | <p>Withdrew from both government and people but showed compassion to those who came to them</p> | <p>Mobilized the people for revolution</p> |

| Sadducees | Pharisees | Essenes | Zealots |
|---|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Didn't like the Pharisees | Didn't like the Sadducees | Didn't like the priesthood | Didn't like the Romans and tax collectors – Jews were “cowards” if they paid taxes to Rome; taxation was slavery. |
| <p>Literalists</p> <p>Argued over oral law verses written law; disagreed on resurrection; angels; God's sovereignty (P) or human responsibility (S)</p> | <p>Interpretationalists</p> | <p>Mystical (Apocalyptic)</p> | <p>Extremists</p> |
| Preoccupied with temple ritual purity | Preoccupied with daily purity | Preoccupied with preparing for the future | Preoccupied with kicking Rome out and separating from Gentiles |

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A Special Mission for a Special People (5:1c-2)

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“His disciples came to him,
and he began to teach them.”

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Question: To which of these parties did the disciples belong?

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“These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.”

[Matthew 10:2-4]

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[Matthew 10:2-4]

A Tale of Two Opposites

Matthew was the tax-collector and unpatriotic traitor!

Simon was the tax-hater and patriotic extremist!

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Jesus doesn't found a new party, he called people to him from the different parties and recommissioned them.

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