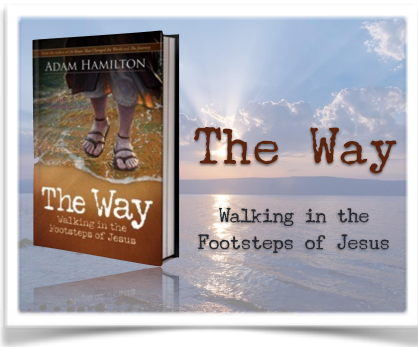


March 6, 2016     **Chapter 3**

**Proclaiming the Kingdom**  
The Mountains



**Goals**

- Develop an understanding of the place and role of mountains in biblical narratives.
- Identify and give examples of several ways Jesus taught his followers.
- Be able to define in your own words the Kingdom of God.
- Be able to define and identify examples of hypocrisy in our culture..
- Understand Jesus' Great Commandment and recognize how it is being lived out in your own life.
- Recognize ways in which your deeds reflect your basic life values.
- Identify factors that keep you from trusting God completely.
- Consider whether your life is built on rock or sand.

**Biblical Foundation** (*Matthew 5:1-2 and 7:24-29*)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!” Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

**Conversation Questions**

- Are you a seaside, mountain, desert, forest, or city person? Why?
- What was your first reaction when you saw the mountains in this video? Do the mountains of the Holy Land coincide with your mental image of mountains? Why or why not?
- In what ways might these mountain ranges have been a barrier to travel and commerce in biblical times?
- How might the climate and whether on the mountains differ from that in the deep river valley?
- Why might the ancient Jews have visited the mountains even though climbing them may have been difficult?
- Why might the Israelites, including Jesus, have sought these mountains as places to pray and to be alone with God?

# PALESTINE AT THE TIME OF JESUS

## Chapter 3

Mount Hermon

