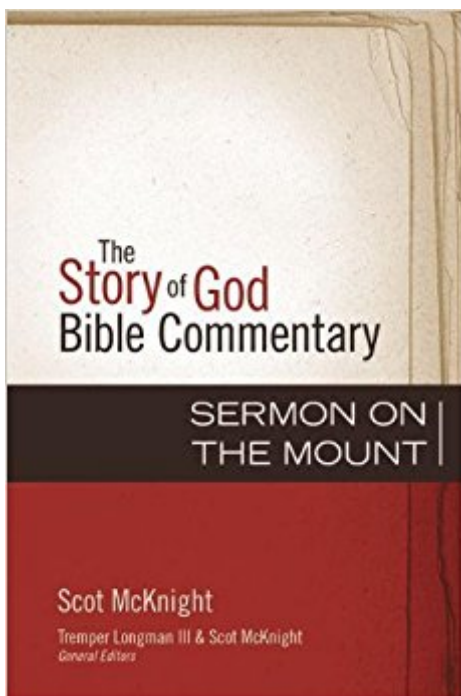


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# Sermon On The Mount (The Story Of God Bible Commentary)



## Synopsis

Emphasizing the historical distance between the New Testament and our contemporary culture, *The Sermon on the Mount* by Scot McKnight, part of the new *The Story of God Bible Commentary* series, offers helpful contextual insights for those seeking to discern how to live out the Bible in today's world. Perfect for pastors, students, Sunday school teachers, and lay people alike, this highly anticipated series provides a clear and compelling exposition of the text in the context of the Bible's overarching story. The authors move away from "application" language, which has been criticized as being too simplistic, encouraging instead a wider perspective and discussion of how the biblical story can be lived today. Offering a new type of application commentary for today's context, the *Story of God Bible Commentary* series explains and illuminates Scripture as God's Story, with each New Testament text examined as embedded in its canonical and historical setting, in order to foster discernment in living the story faithfully and creatively with and for the Church in the 21st Century.

## Book Information

Series: *The Story of God Bible Commentary*

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: Zondervan (October 30, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 031032713X

ISBN-13: 978-0310327134

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 39 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #92,492 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #145 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Commentaries > New Testament](#) #259 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Bible Study > New Testament](#) #496 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > New Testament](#)

## Customer Reviews

The Bible is the story of God and his dealings with humanity from creation to new creation. The Bible is made up more of stories than of any other literary genre. Even the psalms, proverbs, prophecies, letters, and the Apocalypse make complete sense only when set in the context of the grand narrative of the entire Bible. This commentary series breaks new ground by taking all these

observations seriously. It asks commentators to listen to the text, to explain the text, and to live the text. Some of the material in these sections overlaps with introduction, detailed textual analysis and application, respectively, but only some. The most riveting and valuable part of the commentaries are the stories that can appear in any of these sections, from any part of the globe and any part of church history, illustrating the text in any of these areas. Ideal for preaching and teaching. -- Craig L. Blomberg, PhD, Distinguished Professor of New Testament, Denver Seminary

The Story of God Bible Commentary series invites readers to probe how the message of the text relates to our situations today. Engagingly readable, it not only explores the biblical text but offers a range of applications and interesting illustrations. -- Craig S. Keener, Professor of New Testament, Asbury Theological Seminary

Getting a story is about more than merely enjoying it. It means hearing it, understanding it, and above all, being impacted by it. This commentary series hopes that its readers not only hear and understand the story, but are impacted by it to live in as Christian a way as possible. The editors and contributors set that table very well and open up the biblical story in ways that move us to act with sensitivity and understanding. That makes hearing the story as these authors tell it well worth the time. Well done. -- Darrell L. Bock, Executive Director of cultural Engagement, Howard G. Hendricks Center for Christian Leadership and C

In this promising new series of commentaries, believing biblical scholars bring not only their expertise but their own commitment to Jesus and insights into today's culture to the Scriptures. The result is a commentary series that is anchored in the text but lives and breathes in the world of today's church with its variegated pattern of socioeconomic, ethnic, and national diversity. Pastors, Bible study leaders, and Christians of all types who are looking for a substantive and practical guide through the Scriptures will find these volumes helpful. -- Frank Thielman, Professor of Divinity, Beeson Divinity School

I'm a storyteller. Through writing and speaking I talk and teach about understanding the Story of God throughout Scripture and about letting God reveal more of His story as I live it out. Thus I am thrilled to have a commentary series based on the Story of God---a commentary that helps me to Listen to the Story, that Explains the Story, and then encourages me to probe how to Live the Story. A perfect tool for helping every follower of Jesus to walk in the story that God is writing for them. -- Judy Douglass, Author, speaker, encourager, Office of the President, Cru; Director of Women's Resources, Cru'

[The] easy-to-use format and practical guidance brings God's grand story to modern-day life so anyone can understand how it applies today.' -- Andy Stanley, Senior Pastor, North Point Ministries'

I love the SGBC series. It makes the text sing and helps us hear the story afresh.' -- John Ortberg, senior pastor of Menlo Park Presbyterian Church and author of Who Is This Man?

Scot McKnight (PhD, Nottingham) is the Julius R. Mantey Professor of New Testament at Northern Seminary in Lombard, Illinois. He is the author of more than fifty books, including the award-winning *The Jesus Creed* as well as *The King Jesus Gospel*, *A Fellowship of Differents*, *One Life*, *The Blue Parakeet* and *Kingdom Conspiracy*. Tremper Longman III (PhD, Yale University) is the Robert H. Gundry Professor of Biblical Studies and the chair of the Religious Studies department at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California, where he lives with his wife, Alice. He is the Old Testament editor for the revised Expositor's Bible Commentary and general editor for the Story of God Bible Commentary Old Testament and has authored many articles and books on the Psalms and other Old Testament books.

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An excellent commentary by NT scholar Scot McKnight. It's clear he's clearly done the work of working through what the gospel is: the kingdom of God, and not a method or plan of salvation, as many of us evangelicals grew up on. He's consistent with his book *The King Jesus Gospel*, and for studying Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, it's a great guide. But don't expect to get technical analysis with heavy duty Greek work. He mentions the nuances when they are vital to the gaining the bigger picture of Christ's proclamation of Kingdom values. Being part of the *The Story of God Commentary* series, McKnight is clearly determined to bring the focus on the BIG view and make it accessible to the serious Bible student without the passage being overwhelming. He doesn't soft-pedal Jesus' words but is clear he takes Jesus seriously in what it means for his disciples to live in God's kingdom.

Scot McKnight is professor of New Testament at Northern Seminary in Lombard, Illinois. Previously, he taught at North Park University. He is no stranger to commentaries, having previously written on Galatians, 1 Peter, and James. Here, he offering readers the inaugural volume in Zondervan's new *The Story of God Bible Commentaries*. He serves as one of the general editors alongside Tremper Longman III. The purpose of this commentary series is to

address this particular generation with the Word of God. Based on the NIV 2011, this series is asking authors to “explain what the Bible says to the sorts of readers who pick up commentaries so they can understand not only what Scripture says but what it means for today.” (xii-xiii). The name of the series comes from the fact that the editors want authors to “explain each passage of the Bible in light of the Bible’s grand Story.” This of course “connects this series to the classic expression *regula fidei*, the *Æ*rule of faith, which was the Bible’s story coming to fulfillment in Jesus as the Messiah, Lord, and Savior of all.” (xiii). To accomplish this, each passage is examined from three angles: Listen to The Story (cites the text and lists a selection of important biblical and sometimes noncanonical parallels) Explain The Story (the actual commentary proper, limited footnotes, but covering backgrounds, historical context, cultural codes, and theological interpretations) Live The Story (directions for how the text might be lived out today, not necessarily applications though) As you can see, this is similar to the three fold approach of the NIV Application Commentary, but ever so slightly different. I’d say the main difference is that overall the volume more compact and to the point. I haven’t seen the Philippians volume that was also released at the same time, but I’d imagine it’s a bit slimmer than the corresponding NIVAC volume (there isn’t a corresponding one for the Sermon on The Mount). As for McKnight’s volume specifically, I’ve found it helpful so far. I’m reading it alongside John Stott’s in *The Bible Speaks Today* and Kent Hughes’ in *Preaching The Word*. Of the three, McKnight’s and Stott’s most like a typical commentary, while Hughes’ is a series of sermons. McKnight and Stott are fairly closely aligned in their overall aims, so if you are familiar with Stott’s volume, you have an idea about what McKnight’s is like (though also insert your knowledge of McKnight’s differing theological emphases to complete the picture). McKnight opens with an introduction to ethics, which then situates the Sermon on The Mount into that discussion. He closes with a list of key resources before launching into the commentary proper. He breaks the text of Matthew 5-7 into manageable portions (chapters range from 10-30 pages). He follows the outline mentioned above, and as promised, footnotes are kept to a minimum and discussion stays on the kind of track the average reader will stick with. Though more could be said, from what I’ve read so far, and from what I know of McKnight, I can say this volume definitely belongs on your shelf if you’re planning to work through the

Sermon on The Mount anytime soon. Obviously this isn't the last word on the Sermon, but McKnight makes for a great conversation partner, and this particular commentary series looks very promising. I'm looking forward to seeing future volumes, especially the ones coming for the Old Testament (and if you remember yesterday's review, Andrew Shead is the author of the Jeremiah/Lamentations volume). For now though I'll keep reading through McKnight's volume and getting a better grasp on the Sermon on The Mount. If that's what you're interested in, you would do well to give this series, and McKnight's volume in particular, a shot. [I was given a review copy of this book by the publisher]

Scot McKnight is, perhaps, one of the fastest rising and prolific scholars to write on New Testament studies today. This latest series of commentaries, which he both edits and writes for, promises to be another excellent contribution from Dr. McKnight. Taking a narrative approach to the Scripture, McKnight works hard to bring the historical and religious context of Ancient Israel into our understanding of the Scripture in the 21st century. Before comments are made, the Scripture being discussed is translated and shared. Then, other pertinent passages throughout Scripture are shared so students can read this text in its canonical context. After this, in each section, comments are made about the passage's original meaning. Then, ideas are shared for pastors, teachers, and students so that they can find ways to understand the old, old story in their everyday life. I have been using this for months, and I love it! McKnight has deep insights, and yet communicates in an accessible manner. I am sure this will be on pastor's bookshelves for years to come.

Readable, Fair, Engaging, Christ-Centered... Scot McKnight has written one of the most compelling and accessible commentaries on Jesus' most influential words, the Sermon on the Mount. I'm now working on my second sermon series on the SOM in three years and find this book helpful in making sense of Jesus in his context. McKnight simultaneously engages the best of biblical scholarship while also tapping into the hands themes and movements of the entire Bible. He clearly identifies his own conclusions while fairly afraid those with whom he disagrees. Those looking for a commentary to reinforce their own opinions or rehash Reformation era tropes should look elsewhere, or read this and allow themselves to be challenged.

This commentary is a welcome addition to my library. While I don't agree with every nuance of

McKnight's writings, I appreciate the fact that he takes an honest approach to the same questions I find myself asking as I approach the text. I find him a good conversation partner as I prepare sermons.

This has great insights on how to tell the story of the Sermon on the Mount. Not only the theological and contextual background, but a good perspective on where each section of the Sermon fits in culture today.

This is the best over all commentary that I have read on the sermon on the mount. The understanding that Gods kingdom has entered in to this evil age, and is seen by all, as believers in Jesus love God and their fellow man is stressed in this book. And as believers we pray for Gods kingdom to come in its fullness, knowing that seeking Gods regin and rule now has eternal conquences.

I really like this book! I like the author's style and appreciate his insights. I recommend it.

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