

# Kingdom Living

## Studies From The Sermon On The Mount

### The Beatitudes – Kingdom Blessings in a Broken World

Matthew 5:1-12

#### Matthew 4:17, 23

17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the *kingdom of heaven* has come near.”

23 Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about *the Kingdom*.

- The central theme of the Sermon on the Mount is the kingdom of heaven.

#### John 3:3 (NCV)

Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot be in God’s kingdom.”

- There is an “already,” “not yet” aspect of the kingdom of heaven.
- The kingdom of God represents God’s authority, mediated through Christ; therefore, it also reflects our complete allegiance to that authority.

#### Deuteronomy 33:29

Blessed are you, Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord?

- At its heart, the Beatitudes describe the character of Christ Himself and the kind of people His Spirit creates.

#### Critical Clarification:

- This is not a “to-do list” for earning God’s blessing; it’s a picture of the grace-filled life of those who follow Jesus.

#### Matthew 5:1-12 (NIV)

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

He said:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

### **The Setting**

#### **Matthew 5:1-12 (NIV)**

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

#### **Deuteronomy 18:17-19**

The Lord said to me: “What they say is good. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name.

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

- The world says blessing comes to the self-sufficient; Jesus says it comes to the dependent.

#### **Application:**

- The doorway into the kingdom is humility, not achievement.

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

- God Himself assures comfort through forgiveness, healing, and hope in Christ.

#### **Application:**

- A soft heart that mourns sin is fertile ground for God’s comfort.

5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”

- Meekness is not weakness but strength under control – gentle, teachable, and humble.
- The world rewards aggressors; Jesus promises the earth to the gentle.

**Application:**

- Meekness trusts God’s vindication instead of forcing control.

6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

- Righteousness here means both *personal holiness* and a deep desire for God’s *justice* in the *world*.

**Application:**

- God fulfills the desires of those who seek Him above all else and long for His kingdom to come into their lives and society.

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

- Mercy is compassion in action, forgiving and helping the undeserving.

**Application:**

- Our relationships should overflow with the mercy God has shown us.

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

- Purity is not only outward morality but also an undivided heart of devotion.

**Application:**

- A clean heart leads to a clear vision of God.

9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

- Peacemakers actively seek reconciliation, not merely avoid conflict.

**Application:**

- Being God’s children means reflecting His family qualities in peacemaking.

10-12 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

- Righteous living often invites opposition.
- Persecution is not a sign of failure, but of faithfulness.

**Application:**

- We should expect hostility for righteousness but rejoice, for our reward is great.

**Key Takeaway:**

- True blessing is found not in worldly success but in the kingdom character of humility, mercy, and faithfulness to Christ.