

DIVINE PARADOX | Life in God's Kingdom

WEEK 7 - "Marks of Kingdom People (Part 2)"

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

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

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

- Matthew 5:7-9

The Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes

The sermon on the mount is Jesus' description of what it looks like to live as a citizen of the Kingdom.

- What does it mean when we say that Jesus isn't simply saving a "person", He is saving a "people?"
- The remarkable thing about the Sermon on the Mount is that Jesus not only embodies the marks of Kingdom people for us as an example - but He *desires* them for us. How is this significant as we seek to live as citizens of the Kingdom of God?

Marks of Kingdom People - Our Response

Last week we looked at the first 4 beatitudes which express in one way or another our dependence on God. The next three describe the RESPONSE to that dependence.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."

-Matthew 5:7

- How are we empowered to be merciful by the cross and resurrection of Jesus?
- How does being merciful serve as unique evidence that we are living as citizens of another Kingdom?
- What is the hardest part about living mercifully?
- How is living *as a merciful person* different than someone who simply *shows mercy* at times?

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

-Matthew 5:8



- What motivates you? How is being “pure in heart” distinct from simply being “pure in appearance?”
- How are our heart desires formed and shaped?
- What evidences in our life reveal the purity (or lack of purity) of our hearts?

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

-Matthew 5:9

- What are the key differences between peace “keeping” and peace “making”?
- What does it look like to MAKE peace in your marriage? In your parenting? At your job?
- How does Jesus enable us to experience and make peace in our lives?

Scripture for further study:

- Matthew 18:21-35
- Matthew 9:12-13
- Luke 7:47
- Matthew 15:19
- 1 Peter 1:22-23
- 2 Timothy 2:22
- Ephesians 2:13-19

