

Matthew 6 – 15 Sept 2019

Thy Kingdom Come: Rewards for Right Religion

Introduction to Matthew 5-7 –

1. Jesus has just declared His Master, Mission and Mates in Matthew 4. Now as multitudes follow, He takes his disciples aside to teach them.
2. **THERE IS A KINGDOM:** a nation, that's not physical in this world. The kingdom of God, aka the kingdom of heaven. (Luke 17:20-21)
 - a. Matt 5-7 describes how to live 'in this kingdom' while still being in this world.
 - b. Matt 5-7 are Kingdom teachings
 - c. It's called The Sermon of the Mount.
3. **THE PROBLEM:** 3 people, them that is, them that ain't, and them that think they is, but ain't.
 - a. Many who've never accepted Christ's shed blood for forgiven of their sins, try living a good life (IAW these 'kingdom teachings') to feel like they're justified before God.

b. If you try to live like you're in the kingdom when you've never even been accepted into the kingdom, you'll live a self-righteous, prideful existence w/o the power to live joyfully in it.

4. HOW DO WE ENTER THE KINGDOM?

a. We all are eternal dead when we're born (I Cor 15:22)

b. It is eternal life to know Jesus (John 17:3)

c. Those that believe on Jesus can know that they have eternal life (I John 5:13)

d. Jesus said to know Him you have to be born again. Then you will see the kingdom of God (John 3:3)

5. **So you must be BORN into the kingdom before it's any good to try living as if you're a part of the kingdom.**

a. Jesus will end this Sermon on the Mount with (Matt 7:21-23)

- b. How do you do the will of the Father?
(John 6:28-29) – believe on Jesus Christ to be born again.

Over Matthew 5-7, we'll see 4 things that happen to you when you're BORN into the Kingdom.

1. The Blessing of knowing your future can start now (Matt 5:1-16)
2. Your Offences Obliterated first (Matt 5:17-48)
3. The Rewards for Right Religion (Matt 6)
4. To Nurture your Neighbors along (Matt 7)

Tonight, as we look at the third one: we'll see that there are 3 Rewards for Right Religion.

Chapter 6:1-18 tells us that the **1st Reward for Right Religion is Renown from the Father.**

1. This section describes proper motivations and attitude to have when giving, praying & fasting.
2. Each section ends w/ “...& *your Father which sees in secret shall reward thee openly.*” (4, 6, 18)
 - a. Your right actions, to the glory of God, while in this body, will be rewarded in heaven.
 - b. Rev 2-3 to the 7 churches, lists rewards
 - i. Eat of the Tree of Life
 - ii. Will not be hurt of the second death
 - iii. Eat of the hidden manna
 - iv. Given a white stone with a new name
 - v. Power to rule over the nations
 - vi. Clothed in white linen
 - vii. Be a pillar in temple w/ God’s name on us
 - viii. Sit in God’s throne
 - ix. None of these are greater than God giving us renown, openly praising us!

3. We will now have our motivations and attitudes of our heart challenged...are you ready?

Vs 1-4 – Giving done right

1. Read Vs 1-2
 - a. Don't give money, aid, help to others in a way that gives back anything to you.
 - b. Is your intention to give, helping the other person, or is it to get, helping yourself?
 - c. You say, well can't I do both?
 - d. (Matt 5:16) Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works & glorify your Father in heaven"
 - e. Turn to Luke 6:31-36
 - i. Goal: expose them to human grace, modeling God's grace to them
2. Read Vs 3-4
 - a. Left hand/right hand – Our giving should be, as if, hidden from ourselves.
 - i. Don't dwell on it – "look how much I gave"

Vs 5-15 – Praying done right

1. Read 5-6
 - a. This doesn't mean not to pray in public, it means the prayer shouldn't draw attention to u.
 - b. Turn Luke 18:10-14
2. Read 7-8
 - a. Checklist mentality isn't what God wants.
 - b. We love are car mechanics but let me tell you... *“A mechanical prayer won't get your spiritual car out of the garage.”*
 - c. If we forget to pray for Sally's toenail, God still controls that.
 - d. God just wants a relationship with us.
3. Read 9-13
 - a. Lg group of people may have skipped vs 7!
 - b. Lord's prayer = John 17, this = Disciple's
 - c. These = attributes of a meaningful prayer
 - i. Vs 9 – Worship, reverence
 - ii. Vs 10 – Submission to God's will

- iii. Vs 11 – Dependence of God’s provision
- iv. Vs 12 – Honesty, confession, forgiveness
- v. Vs 13 – Petition, protection, power

d. Are our prayers out of balance?

4. Read 14-15

a. When we truly understand forgiveness and the depths of our sin, we more and more naturally want to forgive others.

b. Turn Luke 7:36-46

i. Those that are forgiven much, love much!

Vs 16-18 – Fasting done right

1. Notice, it says when you fast and not if u fast.

2. Many Christians need to do a simply word study on fasting in order to understand this.

a. Turn to Matt 9:14-15

b. Jesus fasted just b4 starting public ministry

c. Seeking God’s will

i. Acts 10 – Cornelius

ii. Acts 13 – Praying about mission partners

Chapter 6:19-24 tells us that the **2nd Reward for Right Religion is the Retainability of the Results.**

1. This section describes the difference between working for earthly results and rewards verses working for heavenly results and rewards.

Vs 19-20

1. We cannot hold on to the benefits of this world.
 - a. (Moth/rust) – Either the processes of nature tear down and destroy.
 - b. (Thieves) – Or the evil hearts of men destroy.
 - c. Those living for this world have a constant worry of loss.
2. Examples
 - a. As Pennsylvanians, we love sculpting our lawns, only to have to maintain it.
 - b. We love to fix up our cars and trucks super nice, only to watch them deteriorate.
 - c. When we pour that effort into people, better!

Vs 21

1. You want to know what someone's heart is truly thinking about? Look at the pocket book!
2. See, money isn't evil, money is just a tool.
 - a. I Tim 6:10 – Love of money is a root of...
 - b. When we go after money, for money's sake or just to have more, it's temporary.
 - c. If we go after money to advance eternal causes, there's a retainable reward in heaven!

Vs 22-24

1. What is your eye fixed on in this life the temporary or the eternal? (Martyr or Thief)
2. *“How is it that we can't pursue money and God at the same time? I give 10% to God.”*
 - a. We are characterized as either pursuing God or forsaking God for pursuits of the world.
 - b. Read II Tim 4:10 – Demas has forsaken me
 - c. Turn to Matt 19:27-29 – Elliot quote – “He is no fool who gives up what he cannot.....”

Chapter 6:25-34 tells us that the **3rd Reward for Right Religion is the Rest and security.**

1. *“Yeah, but if I just worry about the eternal (worship, preaching the gospel, etc), somebody still needs to pay the bills!”*
2. The Lord isn't saying to ignore your own physical needs. He making the case for the supreme importance of eternal things (God, people, and the Word)

Vs 25-29

1. “Thought” = anxious thoughts
 - a. Be diligent to do your part – Gal 6:5
 - b. But stress won't improve your life – vs 27
2. Even the plants and animals are given the necessities of life.
3. Vs 26 – “Are you not better than they?”
 - a. You are better, made in God's image. So is your neighbor, so is your enemy.
 - b. Stop anxious striving & rest in God's hands

Vs 30-32

1. If you're a Christian, have faith that your Heavenly Father knows what your body needs to survive.
2. **“Today is the tomorrow we worried about yesterday...and we're just fine.”**

Vs 33-34

1. And so the encouragement to live IAW the principles laid out in Matt 5-7.
2. God then delights to give you the necessities of life and
 - a. Read Luke 12:32 – Father's good pleasure..
 - b. What security knowing that our powerful God delights to provide all good gifts!

Conclusion –

When you're BORN into the kingdom, you get:

1. The Blessing of knowing your future can start now (Matt 5:1-16)

- a. Jesus teaching for us starts now.
 - b. Acting like Christ starts now by walking in the Spirit.
 - c. Living a grace-filled righteous life starts now.
 - d. Earning heavenly rewards starts now.
 - e. Influencing your community starts now
 - f. Glorifying God starts now.
2. Your Offences Obliterated first (Matt 5:17-48)
 - a. We need to know that Jesus never offended the Law
 - b. We need to know what our offenses actually are
 - c. We need to sit helplessly before a perfect and grace-filled God.
3. **The Rewards for Right Religion (Matt 6)**
 - a. **Renown from the Father (Vs 1-18)**
 - b. **Retainability of the Results (vs 19-24)**
 - c. **Rest and security (vs 24-34)**
 4. To Nurture your Neighbors along (Matt 7)