

Matthew 7 – 22 Sept 2019

Thy Kingdom Come: Nurturing Your Neighbors

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 fourth one: we'll see that there are five ways to Nurture our Neighbors along.

Chapter 7:1-6 tells us that the 1st way to Nurture our Neighbors along is to **critique believers properly as needed.**

Read Vs 1-2

1. This isn't saying that we shouldn't judge between right and wrong. (Read John 7:24)
2. This isn't saying that we shouldn't decide disputes by making judgement. (Read I Cor 6:1-4)
3. This isn't saying that we shouldn't characterize people by the lifestyle they live.
 - a. Matt 5 – doing alms, praying, fast...”not as the hypocrites do”.
 - b. Matt 7:15-16 – You'll know false prophets by their fruits.
4. This is saying that we shouldn't have a condemning attitude.
5. This is saying that we shouldn't pre-judge before knowing all the facts.
 - a. Read Prov 18:13

Read Vs 3-4

1. This is saying that we should consider our own lifestyle before trying to help other Christians.
2. Interesting that the speck and the beam are made of the same material.

Read Vs 5

1. How many Christians stop and do nothing when they see sin happening within the Church?
 - a. “Oh, I’ve got my own sin to deal with, I can’t be helping them”
2. This tells us to take action to get rid of our own problems, so we can move forward and help the greater body of Christ!
 - a. Same as Communion
 - b. Turn to I Cor 11:27-29 – Examine yourself and fix the problem in order to partake.

Read Vs 6

1. Who are dogs and swine?

- a. This is a reference to unbelievers or Gentiles.
 - b. Before you get all bent out of shape about name-calling, know that...
 - i. It seems a lot cruder in English
 - ii. Jesus had great compassion on Gentiles.
(see Mar 7:27-30)
2. “That which is holy”
- a. Specific criticism designed to sharpen and help grow.
 - i. Natural man cannot understand the things of the spirit.
 - ii. You ever try talking to a non-believer about the finer points of Christianity?
 1. Methods to avoid lust.
 2. Israel’s place in End Times
 3. They don’t get it and they usually get mad at YOU.
3. We give judgement and critical help to believers, not unbelievers. (Read I Cor 5:12)

Chapter 7:7-12 tells us that the 2nd way to Nurture our Neighbors along is to **do good to others.**

Read Vs 7-12

1. Vs 7 – ASK – Ask, Seek and Knock
 - a. Go hard after good spiritual things.
 - i. When was the last time you asked the Lord to save your brother or co-worker?
 - ii. When was the last time you sought the Lord's will in prayer for ur bank account?
2. Vs 11 – We're not just asking for anything.
 - a. We should be asking for things that have eternal value. (see vs 11)
 - b. Read James 4:2-3 - ...to consume upon...
3. Our Father is pleased to give us good things.
 - a. Luke 11:13 – added, how much more will the Father give Holy Spirit to those who ask.
 - b. God delights to brings us into all truth.
 - c. We ought to delight in helping grow the body of Christ too.

4. Vs 12 – Let us push each other along into good things.
 - a. Read Heb 10:24 – Provoke one another to...
 - b. Is your Christianity all about you?

Now take a look at the next few verses

Read Vs 13-14

1. These verses stick with the theme of the chapter in that we need to sharpen and encourage others to stick close to God.
 - a. Be critical of other Christians when needed
 - b. Be helpful to other Christians when needed
 - c. Only the minority will be saved
2. If you find yourself almost always agreeing with the world system on the news or in the public schools or in the public museums, then you may not be following Christ.
 - a. If you're saying, "Lord, why am I the only one that believes you." **You're closer to fine!!**

Chapter 7:15-20 tells us that the 3rd way to Nurture our Neighbors along is to **build trust based on fruit.**

Read 15-20

1. False prophets will look good
2. False prophets can be known by their fruit or the outcome of what they're teaching and doing.
 - a. Turn to Deut 13:1-5a
 - i. Don't be taken away from God's Word
 - b. Turn to II Peter 2:1-3
 - i. They do it for profit or the good lifestyle
 - c. Turn to Rom 16:17-18
 - i. Good words/speeches they attempt to deceive.....avoid them!
3. We need to call these false teachers by name to warn believers that may be unaware.
 - a. Turn to I Tim 1:19-20
 - b. Joel and Victoria Osteen
 - c. Jesse Duplantis & Kenneth Copeland
 - d. REPENTANT – Benny Hinn confessed!

Chapter 7:21-27 tells us that the 4th way to Nurture our Neighbors along is to **cause them to examine if they're self-deceived.**

Read 21-23

1. Speaking on behalf of God & casting out demons aren't what gets u in the kingdom. (vs 22)
 - a. Some that do these things will enter heaven.
 - b. Some that do these things won't.
2. For those *not* entering heaven, these works are seen as works of iniquity or sin. (vs 23)
3. The one entering heaven is the one that “does the will of the Father”.
 - a. Read John 6:28-29
4. Good works do not prove that you have right beliefs. Even some heathen have good works.
 - a. However, if you're a believer, you will have good works naturally being produced.
5. This is why communion is so vital. Reminder to examine what we believe of God & salvation.

6. We have a constant need to continually confess and forsake sin that pops up.
 - a. We can find ourselves continuing in good works but having our heart and beliefs drift away from the Lord.
 - b. Turn to I John 1:8-10
 - i. This isn't about salvation, but sanctification
 - c. Turn to I John 1:7
 - i. As we walk in honesty and integrity it not only grows our relationship with God, but also with each other.

Read 24-27

1. Believing in Jesus is the foundation.
2. Our works are the house built on top.
3. Works are meaningless unless coming from a heart that wants to believe Jesus, wherever it leads.
4. Are you more concerned about your fellow Christians works or their beliefs?

Chapter 7:28-29 tells us that the 5th way to Nurture our Neighbors along is to convince them that the Scripture is authority and not man's opinion.

Read 28-29

1. How did the scribes teach?
 - a. They just quoted their fav Rabbi's teachings
 - b. They let the commentators of the Bible do their leg work and then just trusted them.
2. Jesus spoke, quoted and applied the Word.
3. I've noticed there are two basic types of small groups at churches. Bible teacher led or facilitated
 - a. If there's no God-gifted, God-inspired teacher of the Word there, the meeting can go in many directions.
 - b. If it's just facilitated, any strong personality can take over the group.
4. Have you given the Word of God the authority to change your life or have you given that permission only to man?

Conclusion –

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

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 Chapter 7:21-27 tells us that the 4th way to Nurture our Neighbors along is to **culture your Neighbors along (Matt 7)**
 - a. Critique believers properly as needed (vs 1-6)
 - b. Do good to others (vs 7-12)
 - c. Trust others based on their fruit (vs 15-20)
 - d. Cause others to consider if they're self-deceived. What they trusting in? (vs 21-27)
 - e. Convince others that Scripture is authority not man. (vs 28-29)**