

**GOOD TO
GREAT**

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

AN UNCOMMON GREATNESS



Alexander the Great



Alexander the Great



Herod the Great



Alexander the Great



Herod the Great



Genghis Khan

Matthew 4:17

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

FACT

37 times in the Matthew, Jesus points people to the **Kingdom of Heaven** or **Kingdom of God**.

FACT

5 times in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus points us to the **Kingdom of Heaven**.

Matthew 5:3&10

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

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the **kingdom of heaven**.”

John 18:36

Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world...”

Matthew 6:33

“But seek first the **kingdom of God and his righteousness**, and all these things will be added to you.”

Be-Attitude Structure:
Blessing → Attitude → Promise

Exodus 20-24

- 10 Commandments
- Law was *established*

Matthew 5-7

- 8 Beatitudes
- Law is *fulfilled*

First 5 Commandments
Relation with God

First 4 Beatitudes
Relation with God

First 5 Commandments

Relation with God

Second 5 Commandments

Relating to others

First 4 Beatitudes

Relation with God

Second 4 Beatitudes

Relating to others

LIFE PRINCIPLE

Greatness comes from the *INSIDE* out.

**Crowds are good.
Disciples are GREAT.**

Proverbs 15:33

Honor comes before humility.

Four Actions of a Great Person

1) Mercy giver

Matthew 5:7

- “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

GRACE = *getting what you don't deserve*
MERCY = *NOT getting what you DO deserve*

**We live in a SHAME & CANCEL culture,
*not a MERCY & GRACE culture.***

LIFE PRINCIPLE

You can't be a mercy taker unless you are first a mercy giver.

Matthew 5:7

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

Greg Blomberg

“Mercy may be God’s most fundamental attribute.”

Exodus 34:6

“...The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving-kindness and truth.”

Matthew 6:15

- “But if you do not **forgive** others, then your Father will not **forgive** your transgressions.”

LIFE PRINCIPLE

ForGIVEness is never earned,
it is always given.

...you were dead in the trespasses and sins... ⁴ **But God**,
being rich in mercy... made us alive together with Christ.

–Ephesians 2:1,4-5

...he might become a **merciful** and faithful high priest in the
service of God, to **make propitiation for the sins of the
people.**

–Hebrews 2:17

...**he saved us**, not because of works done by us in
righteousness, but **according to his own mercy**, by the
washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.

–Titus 3:5

Four Actions of a Great Person

- 1) Mercy giver
- 2) Purity of heart

1 Peter 1:16

...since it is written, “You shall be holy,
for I am holy.”

Matthew 23:25

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!
For you clean the outside of the cup and of the
dish, but inside they are full of robbery and
self-indulgence.”

Psalm 24:3-4

Who may go up on the mountain of the Lord?
Who may stand in his holy Temple? Only those
with clean hands and **pure hearts**...

Psalm 51:10

Create in me a **clean heart**, O God.

Matthew 5:8

– “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

Two things I have learned about my sin:

- 1) I need to be in it to win it.

Galatians 5:17

For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are **opposed** to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

Two things I have learned about my sin and sinful nature:

- 1) I need to be in it to win it.
- 2) I need to keep a short list with God.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Matthew 5:8

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

Four Actions of a Great Person

- 1) Mercy giver
- 2) Purity of heart
- 3) Peace-maker with others

Ephesians 2:14

He Himself is our peace, who made both **groups into one** and **broke down the barrier** of the dividing wall.

LIFE PRINCIPLE

Your relation to God is validated by our willingness to reconcile with others.

Matthew 5:9

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

Four Actions of a Great Person

- 1) Mercy giver
- 2) Purity of heart
- 3) Peace-maker with others
- 4) Persevere persecution

Matthew 5:10

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

FACT

Last year **5,621** known believers were killed
for their faith in Jesus.

www.opendoors.org

FACT

There have been more people martyred for their faith **since the 19th Century** than in all the previous centuries combined.

2 Timothy 3:12

- Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus **will suffer persecution.**

Luke 6:28

- **Jesus said, “Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”**

Matthew 5:11-12

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

¹² **Rejoice** and be **glad**, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

What makes a person great?
Be as Jesus is and do as Jesus does.