

Seek A Kingdom of Righteousness

Prelude: The Kingdom of God (Part 7)
(Matthew 5:17-20; Psalm 72) February 13, 2022
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I. Seek First the Kingdom of God

A. **Believe in Jesus** (17) *17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*

1. He fulfills the requirements of the law
2. He fulfills God’s word of promise

B. **Rely upon Jesus** (18) *18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.*

C. **Follow Jesus** (19-20)

1. Serve His Kingdom faithfully - *19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven,*
2. Seek the reward of Christ’s respect - *but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.*
3. Rely upon His surpassing truth and grace. *20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.*

II. Pray for the Growth of God’s Kingdom

(A big vision and hope, beyond Solomon) Psalm 72: 1-17

A. **Justice and righteousness** (1-2) *1 Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. 2 May he judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice.*

B. **Restoration and deliverance** (3-4) *3 May the mountains bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness. 4 May he defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; may he crush the oppressor.*

C. **Preservation and Prosperity** (5-7) *5 May he endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations. 6 May he be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth. 7 In his days may the righteous flourish and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.*

D. **Sovereignty and majesty** (8-11) *8 May he rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. 9 May the desert tribes bow before him and his enemies lick the dust. 10 May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores bring tribute to him. May the kings of Sheba and Seba present him gifts. 11 May all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him.*

E. **Compassion and salvation** (12-14) *12 For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. 13 He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. 14 He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.*

F. **Honor and blessing** (15-17) *15 Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be given him. May people ever pray for him and bless him all day long. 16 May grain abound throughout the land; on the tops of the hills may it sway. May the crops flourish like Lebanon and thrive like the grass of the field. 17 May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun. Then all nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed.*

III. Praise to God our King (Ps. 72:18-20)

A. **God’s deeds are glorious** (18) *18 Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds.*

B. **God’s name is glorious** (19a) *19 Praise be to his glorious name forever;*

C. **God’s Kingdom is glorious** (19b-20) *may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.*

20 This concludes the prayers of David son of Jesse.

Questions:

1. What the qualities of good and right character that we look for in those we entrust with leadership and responsibility?
2. How is trust broken when people act carelessly, not doing the right thing? (Why is confession and repentance needed?)
3. How is trust built or repaired as people do the right thing and seek the grace and truth of God? How is Jesus essential in this?
4. David was not a perfect king, yet what can we apply from his wisdom and hope for the future of God’s Kingdom on earth?