

The Principles of the Kingdom (Matthew 5:1-17)

Introduction: The Contrast of Two Mountains

- Mount Sinai: Dealt with the External
- The Mountain of Jesus: Dealt with the Internal

I. The Internal Principles (1-6)

- A. Poor in Spirit—"Spiritual bankruptcy"
- B. Mourning
- C. Meekness—"Power under control"
- D. Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

II. The Outward Life (7-12)

- Mercy
 - See a need, having compassion, and doing the work
- Pure in Heart
- Peacemakers
- Persecuted

III. The Practical Purpose: Salt and Light (13-16)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, those to whom you are accountable , or ministry groups within the church.

1. The sermon mentioned that we often turn our discipleship into a "New Sinai"— focusing on checkboxes rather than the heart. Which "spiritual checkbox" (e.g., reading plans, attendance, etc.) are you most tempted to rely on for your sense of righteousness?
2. Jesus says the Kingdom belongs to the "poor in spirit." In a culture that constantly tells us to "believe in ourselves" and "be enough," why is admitting spiritual bankruptcy so difficult? How does this admission lead to freedom?
3. Think about a time you were physically starving or desperately thirsty. How does that compare to your current "hunger" for God's righteousness? What are the "snacks" (temporary comforts) we use to dull that hunger?
4. In what areas of your life (work, social media, hobbies) do you find it most difficult to remain "salty" or distinct from the world's way of doing things?
5. We often confuse being a "peacemaker" with just "not making waves." Based on the sermon, how does true biblical peacemaking require more courage than simply keeping the peace?