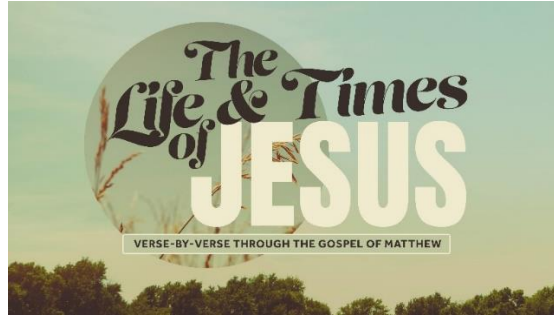


FELLOWSHIP NOTES ~ SUNDAY, APRIL 23rd, 2023



Part 11: “Kingdom Citizenship – The Attitudes of Kingdom Citizens” (Part 1)

Matthew 5:1-12

Theme of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount: _____

Overview of the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7)

The Sermon on the Mount deals with the inner state of mind and heart that is the indispensable absolute of true Christian discipleship. It is a presentation of Christian discipleship that can be evident in the soul of an individual only by the power of God. Jesus explains the quality of the life changed by the saving grace of God and the spiritual character and quality of the kingdom He wished to establish.

Virtually every section of Jesus’ message is repeated in substance elsewhere throughout the New Testament. Jesus’ bottom line is that there should be something different about the lives of His disciples. Life in Christ’s kingdom will look different from life in the world. Disciples of Jesus should possess both an inner and outer righteousness that comes from Him and points others to Him.

What does it mean to be “Blessed”? (Matt. 5:2)

“Blessed” - not a superficial feeling of happiness from positive circumstances (which can change quickly) or the acquisition of temporary or worldly things (which fade and will be destroyed), but rather a supernatural experience of contentedness that comes when a person is right with God through salvation and as a result the qualities of godhood are being manifested in one’s life.

The Beatitudes – (Matt. 5:3-12)

Beatitude #1. _____ – Matt. 5:3; Isaiah 66:2; Psalm 34:18; Psalm 51:17; Prov. 16:5; Matt. 18:2-4

The opposite of self-sufficiency; possessing the humility of recognizing one’s utter spiritual bankruptcy apart from God; an acute awareness of one’s lostness and hopelessness apart from God’s grace

Promise: _____ in and _____ of the kingdom of heaven



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Growth Group Study Guide for April 30th – May 7th

Getting Started

Everyone's character is a little different, even among family members. Who's more self-sufficient among you and your siblings? Among your children? What makes them self-sufficient?

Self-sufficiency can be a good character quality. It can also be a challenging quality when it comes to godliness. When taken to the extreme self-sufficiency can isolate one from the Lord and the dependence on Him that He wants us to have. Self-sufficiency is the opposite of the first of the eight Beatitudes that are found in the first section of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount – being poor in spirit.

Digging Deeper

1. Read Matthew 5:3. What does it mean to be "poor in spirit" and why can it be hard for us to practice this kingdom attitude? (See notes from Sunday morning) _____

2. In the morning message Pastor Rob talked about the necessity of being poor in spirit at the moment of our salvation. How is this seen in Matthew 18:2-4 and why is it necessary for salvation? _____

3. What is the promise given by Christ to those who are poor in spirit (5:3b)? What does this tell us about what/who is not and will not be in heaven? _____

4. On the next page is a comparison of the kinds of traits that normally characterize someone who is proud/self-sufficient vs. someone who is broken/poor in spirit. Allow a few minutes for everyone to work through these personally to gather a sense of where they stand in relation to each list, then talk over the following:
Which ones on the left side of the column did you personally find convicting?
Which ones on the right side of the column do you desire most to live out?

Wrapping Up

Being a kingdom citizen is no easy task. Jesus purposefully clarified the qualities of godliness, like being poor in spirit, to highlight not only His will for the person He wants us to be, but also to show us how much we are unable to attain these qualities without Him and His help.

Close in Prayer

Let's ask the Lord to give us His strength in growing into the kind of kingdom citizens that live out what it means to be poor in spirit. Without Him and His power, it is a futile task. But with Him, we can all grow in this kingdom quality of godliness.