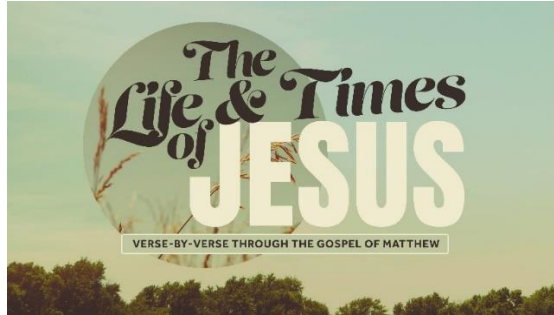


FELLOWSHIP NOTES ~ SUNDAY, May 7th, 2023



Part 12: “Kingdom Citizenship – The Attitudes of Kingdom Citizens” (Part 2) Matthew 5:1-12

Theme of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount: Kingdom Citizenship

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

“Blessed” - to experience a contentedness that comes when a person is right with God through salvation and as a result the qualities of godhood as exemplified in Jesus are being manifested in one’s life.

The Attitudes of Kingdom Citizens: The Beatitudes

<u>Beatitude:</u>	<u>Scripture:</u>	<u>Blessing:</u>
Beatitude #1. Poor in spirit	Matt. 5:3	Inclusion in and possession of the kingdom of heaven
Beatitude #2. _____	Matt. 5:4	_____



225 North Avenue, Norwalk IA 50211 | (515) 981-0699 | www.fellowshipnorwalk.org

Spiritual Cleansing Tool for Periodic Personal Life Examination

Use this tool on a monthly or quarterly basis in your walk with Christ. Read the Scriptures in each category and ask God to use His Word to bring to your mind areas of your life that may need cleansing with confession and repentance. Remember that God is ready to forgive and cleanse you so that you can pursue a life of holiness for His glory (1 John 1:9).

1. My Thought Life

2 Corinthians 10:5 *"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."*

Psalms 119:15-16 *"I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word."*

- Is my mind filled with thoughts of Christ, righteousness and eternity, or am I preoccupied with temporal, earthly issues?
- Do I possess ongoing sinful thought patterns?
- Do lustful, unclean thoughts frequently occupy my mind?
- Do I watch TV programs, movies or anything on social media that stimulates improper thoughts and feelings?
- Do I place a high priority on reading, studying, and thinking (meditating) on God's Word?
- Am I more passionate about earthly things than I am spiritual or heavenly?
- Is Christ and His kingdom central in my priorities?
- Am I seriously reading and studying God's Word daily? Do I possess a love for God's Word?
- Do I take the worship of God personally and corporately seriously?
- Do I approach communion seriously and do my best to examine my heart and life of sin and repent when necessary?
- Do I give my attention to the preaching of God's Word with a heart ready to live in obedience to it?
- Do I seek to grow in personal holiness and make it holy living the priority God wants it to be in my life?
- Am I seeking first the kingdom of God?

2. My Attitudes

Revelation 3:15-16 *"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth."*

Hebrews 11:6 *"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."*

1 Timothy 6:6 *"But godliness with contentment is great gain."*

1 John 2:15-17 *"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever."*

- Am I passionate about living and serving the Lord Jesus?
- Am I excited about learning God's Word, sharing my faith with others and faithfully serving God?
- Do I tend to worry and fret rather than trust God?
- Do I excuse the sin of unbelief by claiming to be a "born worrier"?
- Have I allowed disappointments to weaken my faith and prayer life?
- Do my finances reflect a lifestyle that follows biblical principles?
- Has debt caused me to miss payments and damage my Christian witness?
- Do I lust for things?
- Is debt putting a strain on my marriage?
- In my spending habits, am I motivated more by God's direction rather than personal greed?

3. My Speech

Ephesians 5:4 *"Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving."*

1 Corinthians 10:10a *"And do not grumble..."*

1 Thessalonians 5:18 *"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

- Have I engaged in off-color jokes and conversation?
- Do I allow curse words to go unchecked in my daily speech?
- Do I use God's name in any way other than worship, honor and praise (like saying, "Oh my God!")
- Do I often gripe and complain about situations in life?
- Do I try with God's help to give thanks in all things and at all times?

4. My Relationships

Matthew 6:14-15 *"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."*

- Is there anyone or any situation about which I harbor the even the slightest bitterness or resentment?
- Am I involved in any improper relationships?
- Do I love my wife as Christ loved the church, putting her needs and desires ahead of my own?
- Do I treat my husband with respect and honor, forgiving him and treating him kindly in spite of his shortcomings?
- Am I (are we) raising our children to love God and live in obedience to Him?

5. Obedient Living

1 Corinthians 3:16 *"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?"*

Exodus 20:3 *"You shall have no other gods before me."*

Matthew 6:24 *"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."*

- Have I abused my body – God's temple – through any form of immorality or impropriety?
- Do I sin against my body by using harmful substances or by gluttony?
- Do I place other things ahead of God in my life?
- Have other things or people crowded out my worship and service to God?
- Has my work and financial gain become my "god"?
- Am I involved in anything that God forbids (psychics, astrology, occultic or New Age practices, etc.)?
- Have I compromised God's standards for my life in any way?
- Am I seeking to live daily in step with the Holy Spirit or in my own power?

6. Disobedient Living

James 4:17 *"Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."*

- Are there any clear Scriptural commands that I am willingly neglecting?
- Am I consistent in my Daily Quiet Time with God (prayer and The Bible)?
- Do I have heart for spiritually lost people? Does it show in my prayer life? My relationships? Do I witness to others?
- When I sense God speaking to my heart, do I tend to delay my obedience until a more "opportune time"?
- Am I consistently using my spiritual gifts in service to God?

7. Sins of Self-Rule and Self-Reliance

Matthew 16:24-25 *"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.'"*

Philippians 2:10-11 *"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

- Has God told me to do something and yet I've tried to ignore Him?
- Is God telling me to stop something I'm still doing?
- Is Jesus the Lord of my life?
- Do I have an inner brokenness over sin, especially my own, and am I cultivating that brokenness?
- Do I have any areas of pride or self-reliance that I have not forsaken and confessed?