

Matthew 5:1-12

“The Blessings of The Kingdom”

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The Sermon on the Mount is the greatest teaching that man has or ever will consider. This is Christ's kingdom manifesto where he declares the blessings, behaviors and attitudes of His subjects. The message begins with the beatitudes. There is a certain sense that the beatitudes represent what our attitudes should be, however they really represent the promised blessings of the kingdom. These unique benefits of making Jesus your King are unavailable from any other sovereign. Would you like to know how to be blessed by God?

Discussion Qs

- 1. How are the virtues described in the beatitudes different than the values of the world?**
- 2. Why is Jesus' way to experience happiness in Him different than the world's way to experience happiness?**
- 3. Which of the kingdom attitudes do you find the easiest to live, and which is the most difficult for you?**
- 4. Which of the kingdom blessings is particularly attractive in this season of your life?**

Jesus is Our King and Marriage [Prelude]

1. When Jesus is King in the marriage realm husbands love their wives as Christ loves the church; and wives respect their husbands and encourage them to be spiritual leaders [Eph. 5:21-33]

a You may not be married, or have any desire for marriage, but we recognize marriage and family as an integral unit for Christ's kingdom on this earth.

Intro. The Sermon on the Mount is the greatest teaching that man has or will ever consider. This is Christ's kingdom manifesto where he declares the blessings, behaviors and attitudes of His subjects. The message begins with the beatitudes.

There is a certain sense that the beatitudes represent what our attitudes should be, however they really represent the promised blessings of the kingdom. Would you like to know how to be blessed by God?

Subject: The Beatitudes (The blessings of the Kingdom)

Object: Make Jesus your King and be blessed

Context [1-2] And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. ² Then He opened His mouth and taught them, **saying:** multitudes from a 100-mile radius, gentle slope, acoustics of the slope and water behind. Jesus was seated as custom of teachers as audience stood. His teaching is for disciples, those who make Jesus king. There are 8 beatitudes. 9x “blessed” [Latin *beatis* -> beatitudes; Greek *makarios* or happy]. The focus is spiritual not physical, and internal more than external.

Discussion Q: What are some of the benefits of living in the United States?

Cf. Consider some of the unique benefits of making Jesus your King that are unavailable from any other sovereign ...

A. The attitudes that lead to blessings (or happiness) [3-12]

1. Be poor in spirit [3] Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Cf. the world esteems pride, self-confidence, self-esteem

a. Realize you are spiritually bankrupt: your sin creates a debt you cannot pay.

i. Cf. seeing self as spiritually “middle-class” good deeds equal or exceed bad

ii. Reality of God’s perfection and man’s sin [Is. 5:11-6:5]

b. Recognize your dependence upon God: physical and spiritual life is from God

c. Resulting blessing: theirs is the kingdom of heaven: experience Christ from the moment you surrender your will to His, on earth and in heaven [Ja.4:10]

2. Be a mourner [4] Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Cf. the world says, “Don’t cry and be happy”

a. Those who mourn about their sin and the fallen world are blessed

i Greek re mourning is used re the loss of a loved one (tremendous grief).

ii Generally don’t think of mourning as a blessing, but godly sorrow leads to repentance [2Cor. 7:10-11].

b Resulting blessing: they shall be comforted: hope in this life re eternal life

3. Be meek [5] Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Cf. The world says dominate, be on top

a Meekness is strength under submission [e.g. horse under rein], not weakness

i. Jesus’ only autobiographical statement [Matt. 11:29] cf. cleansing of temple [2x]

b Resulting blessing: they shall inherit the earth: Millennial [1000 yr] reign

4. Be righteous [6] Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

a Crave God’s righteousness not self-righteousness

i. Desire for more and more of God [Bible, prayer, worship, reflection] [Ps.34:8]

ii. Cf. trying to be filled in the world results in no appetite for the Lord

b. Resulting blessing: they shall be filled: Satisfied in the Lord

5. Be merciful [7] Blessed *are* the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

a. Mercy is not giving the deserved punishment Cf. grace, justice [Lam. 3:22]

i. Rome was not merciful and perceived mercy as weakness & not a virtue

b. Resulting blessing: they shall obtain mercy: spared eternal judgment for sin

6. Be pure [8] Blessed *are* the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

a. Pure in heart refers to inner moral purity

i. Cf. The Roman world, like ours, did not see moral purity as a virtue

b. Resulting blessing: for they shall see God: blessing of seeing God today with eyes of faith, and one day in glory.

Ex. 33:18 Moses saw God's glory and yearned to see more

2Cor. 12:1-6 Saw vision of paradise and sustained him through 14 years of hardship

7. Be a peacemaker [9] Blessed *are* the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

a. Seek to keep and make peace, & bring people to the Prince of Peace [Is.9:6-7]

i. Help to bring reconciliation between God and man, and between men

b. Resulting blessing: shall be called sons of God: God's children

8. Be persecuted [10-12] Blessed *are* those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

a. Christ's followers will be ridiculed and persecuted by those who reject Christ

i. 2Tim. 1:7 All who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution

ii. Persecution for Jesus' sake not for being obnoxious. Blessing to suffer for Jesus

iv. Revile [11] insult

b Resulting blessings: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven [10], great *is* your reward in heaven [12]: citizens of heaven now and forever, great heavenly rewards

i. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad is literally "skip and jump"

ii. Among good company with God's prophets [Heb.11]

Conc. Make Jesus your king and experience the blessings of the kingdom.

Cf. We should make him king because He is Sovereign and has all authority, but He woos us to make Him king because of his sacrifice for us [**Communion: remember**]