

Series: The Kingdom of Jesus

Message: Descriptions of the Kingdom from the Sermon on the Mount – Part 1

Scripture: Matthew 5:3-10

Introduction: The Sermon on the Mount is found in the Gospel of Matthew chapters 5-7. The primary message of the sermon is Jesus calling His followers to a Kingdom, and to a lifestyle.

This life as Jesus describes it **is impossible** for anyone to live without Jesus. Only Jesus can fully live as this message describes. Therefore, by calling us to live it Jesus is causing us to **face our inadequacies**. The purpose of the law of God was to help us understand sin and to see that our **only hope** for salvation was to look in faith to God's mercy.

Galatians 3:24 –“Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified (*made righteous*) by faith.”

As we surrender our lives to Jesus in faith He then transforms us from the inside out. In **Galatians 2:20** Paul describes the reality of this experience. He declares that it was Christ who was working in him by faith.

Galatians 2:20 – “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and delivered Himself up for me.”

To make this truth more easily understood Jesus uses **3 different sections** of His message to **reinforce** the truth that the Kingdom is entered into **only** by faith. Here are the 3 sections.

Section 1 – The Blessings passage – Matthew 5:3-10

Section 2 – Greatness in the Kingdom – Matthew 5:19-20

Section 3 – The Kingdom Key– Matthew 7:21-27

Today we will look together at **Section 1**.

Section 1 – The Blessings passage – Matthew 5:3-10

Read Matthew 5:3-10 now

Here in the passage commonly referred to as the Beatitudes Jesus describes the process by which each person is brought into the Kingdom of God. This passage mentions the Kingdom at its beginning and end like bookends (vs. 3 & 10). Thus the **context** of the passage itself **is entrance** into the kingdom. Jesus mentions **8 realities** that each follower continues to experience as they enter and then live in the Kingdom of God. **Four** of these realities are focused on the work of God **in** His children. The **second four** speak to the work of God **through** His children whereby the Kingdom is built.

Our purpose today is **not** to do a detailed study of the passage. We hope to simply observe the truth highlighted by Jesus in the passage. The truth highlighted is that the Kingdom of God is entered into **only by faith** in Jesus.

These 8 Blessings are a description of the process of transformation which is experienced when a person puts faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. At the moment of salvation by faith the person is indwelt by the Holy Spirit and is transferred from the domain of darkness to the Kingdom of Jesus.

Now the Holy Spirit begins to lead the person through these 8 blessings. Some of these experiences are used in the process of leading the person to trust in Jesus for salvation but they all continue to bless the person throughout the journey of walking with Jesus in His Kingdom

Blessed are Poor in Spirit – This indicates an **initial** and **continuous brokenness** over sin. This is brokenness over **personal** sin **and** then the **sin of the world**. This process causes the follower of Christ to grow to view sin as God views sin. This brokenness over sin is essential to lead one to seek forgiveness by faith alone.

Blessed are they who Mourn – once the reality of our sin is understood we begin to mourn over our sin. When we reflect on the cost Jesus had to pay for sin we mourn over sin.

Blessed are the Gentle/Meek – the journey of brokenness and mourning over sin brings humility. One cannot stand in pride and judgment over another person when broken and mourning over personal sin. Humility leads us to self-denial.

Blessed are those who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness – Being poor in spirit, mourning, and meek creates an understanding of our righteousness before God. Our best efforts of righteousness are like leprous rags. We are convinced through this process of blessings that we **must** have the righteousness of Jesus Christ to be acceptable to God. Thus we hunger and thirst for it. We understand that this righteousness is available by faith alone. Thus we trust in Jesus and our hunger and thirst is satisfied.

These four **are internal**. They then produce the next four **external** realities.

Being **poor in spirit** will lead one to a lifestyle of **mercy**. Mercy is giving to others what is not deserved.

Mourning over sin will lead one to a lifestyle which pursues **purity** of heart. **1 John 3:3** tells us that everyone who hopes in Jesus seek to walk in purity as Jesus walked

Meekness of heart will lead one to be a **peacemaker**. Peacemakers help others to make peace with God and peace with one another in humility. Peacemakers help others to learn to walk in the peace of God

Hungering and thirsting for righteousness will lead one to a lifestyle of **endurance** in the midst of **sure persecution** for the sake of the kingdom.

To believe the truth that righteousness can only be gained by faith in Jesus causes many from other beliefs to seek to stop this message.

Jesus declares at the beginning of His message that those who are of the kingdom experience the blessing of internal transformation which leads to external sanctification.

Attempting to live this lifestyle externally without the inward transformation by the Holy Spirit is not only impossible but unfruitful. No amount of self-produced mercy, purity, peacemaking, or suffering can enable one to enter into the Kingdom of God. One must recognize the need of transformation and put trust in Jesus whose death and resurrection alone can make us acceptable to God.

If as followers of Jesus we do not see the fruit of mercy, purity, peacemaking, and endurance then it may be because we have neglected the ongoing process of being poor in spirit, of mourning over sin, of walking in meekness, and hungering and thirsting for the righteousness of Jesus.

When we are not merciful it is because we have forgotten our brokenness over sin. When we are not seeking to walk in purity it is because we have ceased to mourn over our sin and what our sin cost Jesus.

When we are judgmental and legalistic rather than being a peacemaker it is because we have forgotten who we are and are no longer walk as Jesus walked in meekness and humility.

When we no longer have the endurance we need to keep following Jesus when the road is difficult it is perhaps because we are seeking the world rather than continuing to be hungry and thirsty for the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

These blessings which lead us to know that salvation is by faith alone also continue to lead us to follow Jesus by faith alone. These blessings which we experience at the point of entering the Kingdom are also blessings for us each day as we walk with Jesus seeking first His Kingdom and righteousness.

Next week as God allows we will look at two additional sections in this sermon which reinforce this truth of salvation by Grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus alone.

Application

Do you belong to the Kingdom of God?

Have you by faith in Jesus alone experience being poor in spirit?

Have you experienced the mourning or grieving over sin? Have you been made humble by your experience of trusting Jesus?

Has the Holy Spirit given you a hunger and thirst for the righteousness of Christ?

If any of these traits are lacking the answer is to focus on the relationship with Jesus.