

**Series: The Kingdom of Jesus**

**May 8, 2016**

**Message: Descriptions of the Kingdom from the  
Sermon on the Mount – part 2**

**Scriptures: Matthew 5:19-20 / Matthew 7:21-27**

**Introduction:** In part one of the descriptions of the Kingdom from the Sermon on the Mount our focus was on the Blessings which Jesus spoke of at the beginning of His message. The 8 blessings revealed the process which each person travels as he or she enters the kingdom. As a person places trust in Jesus alone to be forgiven of sin and to become God's child they experience these eight blessings. As they continue to follow Jesus and serve in His Kingdom they continue to experience these 8 blessings. The first four are works God is doing **inside** the person. The last four are the **external fruit** which is produced. For review:

Being poor in spirit (broken over sin) leads to being merciful

Mourning over sin leads to seeking purity in lifestyle

Being Gentle /Meek/Humble leads to being a peacemaker

Hungering and thirsting for the righteousness that only Jesus can give to us by faith leads to a confidence which enables us to endure suffering and persecution for His Name

As we continue to be transformed on the inside we will continue to see the fruit on the outside.

Jesus primary point in this sermon is to reveal that entering into the Kingdom of God is not accomplished by being or doing good. It is accomplished by trusting in Jesus and thus being transformed from the inside out.

Jesus speaks to this truth about the Kingdom in **two additional** passages which we hope to consider today.

### **Greatness in the Kingdom –Matthew 5:19-20**

The message leading up to this statement about greatness refers to the Word of God which will not be changed or pass away. Jesus then describes the difference between the greatest and the least in the Kingdom. Both are in the Kingdom which means that the greatest and the least both trusted in Jesus Christ. Jesus is speaking here about how God views greatness versus how the world around us views greatness. Jesus said that our righteousness had to surpass the Pharisees. These Pharisees were viewed by the world as the supreme models of both being good and doing good deeds.

Jesus said that our righteousness has to surpass theirs. The word for surpass meant to greatly exceed. To the listeners of this message this would have been impossible to conceive. Jesus meant that we were to pursue a righteousness that came from a **different method** and from a **different source**. The **method** Jesus spoke of was to seek to be made righteous by faith instead of by doing good deeds. The **source** of righteousness Jesus spoke of was the gift of God rather than from self or comparing to others.

The only righteousness that is able to gain entrance into God's Kingdom is the righteousness which comes by faith in Jesus.

Those who live by this truth and who teach it faithfully to others will be the greatest in the Kingdom. Those who know the truth yet do not live by it and cause others to stumble will be the least.

The mothers and grandmothers who know the truth of God's acceptance being by faith are able to live lives of mercy, purity, peacemaking, and endurance before their children.

They are able to demonstrate unconditional love because they have been accepted by God not based upon being or doing good but by trusting Jesus. They therefore teach by **word and example** to their children the truth that God loves and accepts them because they believe in Jesus. They teach their children to allow God to work on the inside and then God will work through them on the outside.

Too often people believe the truth about faith and receive God's forgiveness and eternal life personally and yet teach others the opposite in how they speak about God and in how they treat others. Those who walk in **pride rather than mercy** will be the least. Those who walk in **worldliness and cause others to stumble, rather purity** will be the least. Those that **stir up strife rather than seek peace** will be the least. Those that **walk away from God's ways due to the pressure and influence others** are the least in the Kingdom. Those who **practice legalism rather than grace** will be the least.

### **The Kingdom Key – Matthew 7:21-27**

In this passage Jesus highlights in a dramatic way the truth about the Kingdom. The key to entering and living in the Kingdom is not found in self-efforts or religious activity. The Key which enables a person to build a foundation which will last is the relationship with Jesus which comes only by faith.

The picture Jesus describes is the judgement. Some who will call Jesus Lord, Lord will not enter His kingdom.

These who knew Jesus **title** did not know Jesus **personally**. They were shocked because they had spoken prophecy in Jesus Name. They had driven out demons and even performed miracles. Yet Jesus said I never knew you. Jesus said for them to depart which meant they were being removed from His presence.

Jesus called their **self-made religious efforts** practicing **lawlessness**. The world saw them as religious and good. Jesus saw them as **misapplying** the law of God. The **law leads one to seek mercy**. To seek and in this case demand to be accepted based upon religious activity is to **violate the heart** of the law. Jesus said **the key was in knowing Him**. These who were rejected **did not** trust in Jesus. They trusted in being good in the sight of others and doing good to be accepted. They did not enter the Kingdom.

Jesus closes the sermon with the **illustration of foundations**. The journey of life in this world cursed by sin is rightly described by Jesus as enduring a storm. Those whose foundation is trust in Jesus have lives built by God upon a **rock foundation** and therefore they **endure both this life and the judgement of God**. Those who seek to build a life upon being accepted by God for being and doing good will find their **foundation is like sand** and will **not** endure this life **nor** be able stand in the judgement of God.

The Key is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus said in Matthew 7:21 that those who enter are the ones **who do the will of His Father in Heaven**. In **John 6:28-29** Jesus makes it clear what this means. **John 6:28-29**—***They said therefore to Him (Jesus), 'What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?' Jesus answered and said to them, 'This is the work of God; that you believe in Him (Jesus) whom He (God the Father) has sent'.***

The people were **seeking for what to do to be accepted**. Jesus said what you **need is to believe** in Me. **That is it!** We cannot come to God in our own way. We must **not be like Cain** who did not want to bring the blood sacrifice of a lamb but wanted to bring his best fruits and vegetables. God rejected his offering. God will reject every attempt to enter His Kingdom that does not enter through the person of His Son Jesus Christ who is the lamb of God sacrificed for us all.

Mothers and grandmothers have significant influence to lead their children and grandchildren to choose the only true foundation. **Of all the truths about life we are privileged to teach our children this is the most important of all**. What foundation do we trust in personally and what foundation are we teaching/modeling for our children to trust in? **The Key is to know Jesus and being known by Jesus**. Will Jesus know you at the judgement? If you have trusted in Him alone to forgive and make you His child then the answer is yes. If not today is the day to trust in Jesus and apply this key to the Kingdom.

## **Application**

Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus?

Are we living and modeling the truth about trusting Jesus?