

Message From The Mount

Lesson 2

The Citizens in Heaven's Kingdom – Part A (Mt. 5:3-12)

Introduction

Because the kingdom was "at hand" (4:17), Christ was proclaiming its gospel (4:23). The call was for "repentance"...an inner & necessary change for salvation (Lk. 13:3, 5). *But a change to what?*

Any kingdom's citizens must live in ways that please the king. The King of kings begins His great discourse by describing the "characteristics" of the citizen He demands in the heavenly kingdom. When examining these individually, one realizes the great paradox of what it truly means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

The Beatitudes

- 1) How much does Jesus discuss the standards by which men's "happiness" is usually measured (*material wealth, human wisdom, social status*)? (cp. Jn. 18:36)
- 2) Define "*beatitude*." Though not a term actually found in the Scripture, how is it an apt description of these opening 10 verses?
- 3) Are these "characteristics" hereditary or the product of environment? If not, what is their origin?
- 4) Are they "competing factors" or "separate parts" of a greater whole? (cp. 1 Cor. 12:1, 4, 7-11)
How many does a kingdom citizen need to possess?
- 5) Before examining each one, look at them together. What kind of person is being described?

The Poor In Spirit (v. 3)

- 6) What is meant by "poor in spirit?" What does a poor man have to do? (Lk. 16:20-21) What does he realize? (Lk. 15:18-19) Why is this a challenge? (Lk. 16:3)

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- 7) Even though Jesus does not speak about economic poverty, why are we happy if we are poor? (Lk. 18:24-25)

- 8) Do we know what sin pays? (Rom. 6:23) How painfully aware are we of how high a price this is? (Mt. 18:23-27)

- 9) What is the blessing for the one who is spiritually impoverished?

The Mournful (v. 4)

- 10) What type of "mourning" do you think is under consideration? How can one be "happy" if he has been brought to tears?

- 11) How might the prophecy from Isa. 61:1-3 help in understanding this verse? (cp. Lk. 4:18-19)

- 12) What kind of sorrow is this? (2 Cor. 7:8-10) How does this emphasize God's mercy? (Rev. 21:4)

- 13) What is the blessing for the one that mourns?

The Meek (v. 5)

- 14) What does it mean to be "gentle" or "meek?" How is this quality often misunderstood? Consider Jesus (Mt. 26:53; 11:29) and Moses (Num. 12:3; Ex. 32:19-20).

- 15) How does meekness help with self-righteousness and self-will?

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16) Explain how “meekness” is in these passages: **Phil. 2:6-7; Heb. 5:8-9; Rom. 12:19; 1 Pet. 5:5.**

17) What is the blessing for the meek one? Explain what you think “inherit the earth” means.

The Hungry & Thirsty (v. 6)

18) What does it mean to be “hungry” (cp. **Mt. 4:2**) and “thirsty” (cp. **Jn.19:28**)?

19) Define “righteousness.”

20) How do so many try to “fill themselves?” (**Eccl. 5:10-11; 6:7**) Sadly, what is the problem? Think about the image in **Lk. 15:16-17**. Where should one go? (**Jn. 4:10-14; 6:48-58; 7:37-38**)

21) Where can righteousness be found? (**Rom. 1:16-17**)

22) What is the blessing for the hungry & thirsty?

The Merciful (v. 7)

23) Define “mercy.”

24) What is the requirement to obtain mercy? (**Mt.6:14-15; 18:21-35**) What should the kingdom citizen use as motivation to show mercy to others? (**Eph. 2:1-5; Rom. 5:8; Titus 3:3-5**)

25) What is the blessing for the one who shows mercy?

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The Pure In Heart (v. 8)

26) "Pure" means that which is clean; genuine; sincere. How can ones trying to get into heaven's kingdom already be described as such? (cp. 6:22-23; Lk. 8:15)

27) How are the people in these passages not "pure" or "single-minded?" (Lk. 16:1-8; Jas. 1:6-8; 4:8)

28) Who may "see God?" (Psa. 24:3-4)

The Peacemaker (v. 9)

29) Even though "peace among men" is certainly desirable (Rom. 12:18), how do we know that is not the primary concern re: the heavenly kingdom? (Mt. 10:34-36)

30) What "kind" of peace does the Prince of Peace speak about? (Jn. 14:27; Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:13-17)

31) What is the blessing for the peacemaker?

The Persecuted (vv. 10-12)

32) Why should "persecutions" not surprise followers of God? (v. 12b; 1 Jn. 3:13; Jn. 15:18-20)

33) What is the basis for this "persecution?" (vv. 10b, 11b) How might 1 Jn. 3:12 illustrate?

34) What is the blessing for the persecuted? (Jas. 1:2-4; 1 Pet. 4:12-19)