

When The Kingdom Comes
“The ‘Be’ Attitudes”
The Sermon on the Mount #2
Matthew 5:7-12

INTRODUCTION

This week’s study concludes the beatitudes. Last week we examined what Jesus said about those who are poor in spirit, mourning, meek and hungering for righteousness. In the concluding beatitudes we see that when God makes His Kingdom available to even the least of us, the Kingdom comes powerfully to those around us.

Ice Breaker (Optional – 8 MIN): Which gave you the greatest pleasure, the best gift you have ever received or the best you’ve given?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

Read Matthew 5:1-12 from your Bibles.

Q1. Read Mat 5:7, Psalm 18:25, Mat 6:15, James 2:13

The natural tendency for most of us is to seek justice or vengeance rather than extend mercy. Share a common situation (driving, business, interpersonal relationships, etc.) in which we have a choice to be merciful or not. Based on these scriptures, what will help you to extend mercy?

Q2. Read Mat 5:8, Hebrews 10:22, Acts 15:9, 3 John 1:11

How do the scriptures say our hearts are purified, and what is one indication that our hearts are not pure? Why do you think we are only able to “see” God when our hearts are pure?

Q3. Read Mat 5:9, 2 Corinthians 5:19-20, Ephesians 2:14, John 14:27

As peace-receivers we reflect the nature of our heavenly father when we become His ambassadors working to extend His peace and reconciliation. What specific opportunities or situations do you have now where you can act as God’s ambassadors?

Q4. Read Mat 5:10-12, 2 Timothy 3:12, John 15:19-20

Christ does not promise His followers they will have an easy life, but rather, says they will suffer persecution. From your own experience and what you know of persecution of Christians around the world, why do you think that persecution exists?

Q5. James 1:2-4, Romans 5:1-5

Name some of the benefits you receive from your relationship with God and some of the ways we can grow through trials in this life.

Q6. Many Christ-followers willingly enter into difficult, dangerous situations because of their faith. What encouragement from God’s promise can you use in these situations for yourself? What encouragement would you offer to others who are suffering for their faith?

WRAP-UP

Read Matthew 5:48

Let’s not read the beatitudes dispassionately, but focus rather on the work of God in our lives, personally allowing Him to transform us and make us perfectly mature and complete. As we become the people working for His Kingdom, we will see God’s amazing work among us collectively and in the world around us. What will life look like “*When The Kingdom Comes*” to us?

Memory Verse

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Matthew 5:7 NIV

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs:

Challenge:

This week ask God to whom you should extend mercy, in place of judgment, both within your heart and outwardly. Also, consider visiting www.persecution.com - and look at the ‘restricted nations’.

Q1.

Matthew 5:7 NIV - Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Psalms 18:25 NKJV – With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless;

Matthew 6:15 NIV - But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

James 2:13 NIV - because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

Q2.

Matthew 5:8 NIV - Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Hebrews 10:22 NIV - let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Acts 15:9 NIV - He made no distinction between us and them, for He purified their hearts by faith.

3 John 1:11 NIV - Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.

Q3.

Matthew 5:9 NIV - Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

2 Corinthians 5:19-20 NIV - 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Ephesians 2:14 NIV - or he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,

John 14:27 NIV - 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Q4. Matthew 5:10-12 NIV - 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

2 Timothy 3:12 NIV - 12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

John 15:19-20 NIV - 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. 20 Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

Q5. & Q6.

James 1:2-4 NIV - 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Romans 5:1-5 - Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Wrap-up

Matthew 5:48 NIV - 48 Be *perfect* (*Gk-'teleios'*), therefore, as your heavenly Father is *perfect*.

teleios – completed, finished, full grown, mature