

## Living in the Kingdom of God

New Life Lessons  
May 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
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As we begin our series on *The Kingdom of God*, let's use this series to really focus on the work of God in our lives personally. What it will mean for us to make Jesus Lord of all in our lives? Let's allow him to teach us as we are his apprentices, and he is our master.

- **Day One Read Matthew 5:1-4**

1. What does being "poor in spirit" mean to you? Why is it a necessary for life in the kingdom?
2. Why is mourning necessary for comfort and healing?

**Pray** – Ask God to help you see yourself as God sees you. God wants you to see your great need for him and his great love for you.

- **Day Two Read Matthew 5:1-6**

1. Why is meekness often confused with weakness? How does self-control lead to spiritual blessing?
2. How do the things of this world often "spoil our appetite" for the true satisfaction of the presence of God? What is "spiritual junk food?"

**Pray** – Ask God to help you seek him with all that you are. Ask him to help you focus your energies toward him and seek your fulfillment in him.

### What will Be Your Action Steps?

## "The 'Be' Attitudes"

The Sermon on the Mount #1

Matthew 5:1-6

**Matthew 5:1-6** (NIV) <sup>1</sup> Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. **His disciples came to him,** <sup>2</sup> and he **began to teach them,** saying: <sup>3</sup> "**Blessed** are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> **Blessed are those who mourn**, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup> **Blessed are the meek**, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they will be filled.

**Matthew 5:20** (NIV) <sup>20</sup> Unless your **righteousness** surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:17-19 *dikaioisune* – "true inner goodness, virtue and character"

**Matthew 5:48** (NIV) <sup>48</sup> Be **perfect**, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. *teleios* – "completeness, maturity"

### What's The Point?

As we look into this amazing sermon "on the mount," we see:

- *The Kingdom of The Heavens* Is Present And Available... "at hand," ... within our reach. Acts 11:5-9
- The Sermon on the Mount Is Not A *Prescription* For Getting Into The Kingdom, But Rather, A *Description* of Life Lived In The Kingdom - Now. Becoming "That Kind of Person." The Kingdom is *now*, and *not yet*.
- It Is Ordinary People Who Are The Light And Salt Of The World As They Live The Blessed Life In The Kingdom of God.

So, The Central Message of The Sermon On The Mount is *The Present Availability of The Kingdom of God* Through Faith in Jesus Christ.

## Goodness from the Inside Out

**Luke 6:43 – 45** (NIV) No good tree produces bad fruit, nor any bad tree good fruit ... The **good person**, from the **good treasured up in his heart**, produces what is good.

### MIND

Our Thoughts

### HEART/SPIRIT

Our Will/Our "Chooser Muscle"

### BODY

Our Actions

## Becoming "Perfect"

*"The command 'Be ye perfect' is not idealistic gas. Nor is it a command to do the impossible. (Jesus) is going to make us into creatures that can obey that command.*

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

**Ephesians 3:16-17a** (NIV) <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17a</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. Psalm 51:10; Colossians 3:1; 2 Peter 1:3-8; 1 Timothy 4:7b; Philippians 1:9-11; Jude 1:24

*"A discipline is an activity within our power that enables us to accomplish what we cannot do by direct effort."*

Dallas Willard

## The Beatitudes

*A Description of Life in the Kingdom of God*

**Matthew 5:1-2** (NIV) <sup>1</sup> Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them, saying: Matthew 4:23-25

### 1. Blessed are the Poor in Spirit...

**Matthew 5:3** (NIV) <sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. *ptōchos pneuma*  
"poor" "spirit"

**Luke 4:18a** (NLT) <sup>18a</sup> "The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring **Good News to the poor**. Isaiah 61:1a; Matthew 11:4-5; Psalm 112:9

**Luke 10:21** (NIV) <sup>21</sup> At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have **hidden these things** from the wise and learned, and **revealed them to little children...**

**With Jesus: The "have not's" are the well off!**

### 2. Blessed are those who Mourn...

**Matthew 5:4** (NIV) <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Isaiah 61:2; Revelation 7:17

**2 Corinthians 1:3b, 5b** (NLT) <sup>3b</sup> God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. <sup>5b</sup> God will shower us with his comfort through Christ. Matthew 11:28; Hebrews 4:16

**With Jesus: The "losers" are the ones who find joy!**

### 3. Blessed are the Meek...

**Matthew 5:5** (NIV) <sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. *praeis – gentle.* Matthew 11:29; 21:5; 1 Peter 3:4; Revelation 5:10; 22:12

**With Jesus: The "patient ones" get it all!**

### 4. Blessed are those who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness...

**Matthew 5:6** (NIV) <sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. John 6:26-29

**With Jesus: The "hungry ones" are satisfied!**

**Jeremiah 29:13** (NIV) <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. John 4:32; Matthew 6:17-18; 6:31-33