

Living in the Kingdom of God

Last week, we began our series on *The Kingdom of God*. As we begin our study of *The Sermon on the Mount*, let's focus on the work of God in our lives, personally, and what it looks like for the Kingdom to come into our lives collectively – in our families, our friendships, our neighborhood, our school, our workplace and the whole Central Coast! What it will mean for us to make Jesus Lord of all in our lives - together? What will life look like when “*The Kingdom Comes?*”

- **Day One Read Matthew 5:4-6**

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.

- **Day Two Read Matthew 5:7-12**

1. Why does having a “pure heart,” being “merciful,” and being a “peacemaker” often seem like weakness to us? Shouldn't it be “Blessed are the selfish, ruthless, and aggressive? Can we really become “kingdom people” and succeed in life?
2. Do you ever suffer for your faith? How can we “rejoice and be glad” in the face of insults and persecution?

Pray – Ask God to help you live your life showing a passionate love for God and an authentic love for people. And if doing this brings insult and persecution, ask for his grace and strength.

What will Be Your Action Steps?

New Life Lessons
June 1st, 2nd & 3rd, 2012
Pastor Ron Salsbury

“The ‘Be’ Attitudes”

The Sermon on the Mount #2

Matthew 5:1-12

Matthew 5:1-12 (NIV) ¹ Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. **His disciples came to him,** ² and he **began to teach them,** saying: ³ **“Blessed are the poor in spirit,** for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ **Blessed are those who mourn,** for they will be comforted. ⁵ **Blessed are the meek,** for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,** for they will be filled. ⁷ **Blessed are the merciful,** for they will be shown mercy. ⁸ **Blessed are the pure in heart,** for they will see God. ⁹ **Blessed are the peacemakers,** for they will be called sons of God. 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.

Matthew 4:17 (NIV) ¹⁷ From that time on Jesus began to preach, **“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”**

The Central Message of The Sermon is:
***The Present Availability
of the Kingdom of God***

Righteousness in the Kingdom of God

Matthew 5:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ For I say to you, that unless your **righteousness** exceeds the **righteousness** of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. *dikaiosune* – “true inner goodness, virtue and character”.
grammateus – “words, rules and moral restrictions”

Matthew 5:48 (NIV) ⁴⁸ Be **perfect**, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. *teleios* – “completeness, maturity”

The Beatitudes

A Description of Life in the Kingdom of God

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

1. Blessed are the Poor in Spirit...

Matthew 5:3 (NIV) ³ **Blessed are the poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. *“poor” ptōchos “spirit” pneuma* Luke 4:18a; 10:21; Isaiah 61:1a; Matthew 11:4-5; Psalm 112:9

With Jesus: The “have not’s” are the well off

2. Blessed are those who Mourn...

Matthew 5:4 (NIV) ⁴ Blessed are **those who mourn**, for they will **be comforted**. *pentheō* – “to mourn and to grieve” Isaiah 61:2; Revelation 7:17

“Mourning helps us to Grieve, Grieving helps us to Heal!”

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

With Jesus: Healthy grief leads to overflowing love

3. Blessed are the Meek...

Matthew 5:5 (NIV) ⁵ Blessed are the **meek**, for they will **inherit the earth**. *praeis* – *gentle*. Matthew 11:29; 21:5; 25:21; 1 Peter 3:4; Revelation 5:10; 22:12

With Jesus: The “patiently controlled ones,” in the end, get it all!

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

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

With Jesus: Our “deepest hunger” is satisfied

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

5. Blessed are the Merciful...

Matthew 5:7 (NIV) ⁷ Blessed are the **merciful**, for they will be **shown mercy**. *eleēmōn* – “compassionate” Matthew 25:31-46

With Jesus: The “givers” get more than they give

6. Blessed are the Pure in Heart...

Matthew 5:8 (NIV) ⁸ Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they will see God. *katharos kardia*

With Jesus: A “pure heart” clarifies everything

7. Blessed are the Peace Makers...

Matthew 5:9 (NIV) ⁹ Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they will be called sons of God. *eirēnopoios* - “works for, does peace”

With Jesus: We desire the health of reconciliation

8. Blessed are the Persecuted...

Matthew 5:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are **persecuted** because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. *diōkō* – “pursue to make to suffer” Matthew 5:11-12; 2 Timothy 3:12; Romans 5:3b-5; James 1:2-4;

With Jesus: Suffering brings refinement & alignment