

Sermon Reflections

The Blessed Life (Matthew 5:1-10)

Summary: Reorient your view of Christ's kingdom so as to realign your life by kingdom values.

KINGDOM VALUES:

1. A Kingdom Characterized by Blessings (vv. 1-10)

- True blessing is upon a different kind of people than our World assumes. What are some specific "blessings," according to worldly standards, you have heard recently attributed to someone, and why are they not relevant, or even harmful, for Christ's kingdom people to pursue? How do you guard your witness through your tongue and your goals in life amongst people in the World such that you highlight the things that Christ values? What are the worldly goals/standards/values you have seen removed from your life as your mind has been renewed by God's Word year after year?
- The *Sermon on the Mount* teaches that kingdom people show changed lives, although not perfectly so in this life (see 6:12); this is the "already/not yet" aspect of the kingdom. During your Christian life, what things does Scripture command you to strive for perfection in attaining, while knowing that you will never attain perfection for now? (e.g.: Matt 5:48, 1 Pet 1:16) How does Scripture motivate believers to seek such unattainable goals? (hint: Ps 103:13-14, Heb 4:14-16) What commands have you not been faithful to in pursuing perfection? How can you address each of them?

2. A Kingdom Comprised of the Needy (vv. 3-6)

- In v. 3 we see the "poor in spirit" (spiritually humble) are blessed. What does a spiritually humble person look like? How is kingdom humility different from the spiritual "humility" lauded in other religions? (One example: Isaiah 57:15 states that God dwells with the contrite and lowly.)
- Kingdom people are mourners (v. 4) — what things should believers mourn (in themselves)? When was the last time you came under heavy conviction from God's Word of a particular behavior or attitude that you have? How can you regularly bring yourself to a state of mourning in matters God cares about? And how can you ensure not to become self-absorbed (hint: Romans 7:24-25)?

3. A Kingdom Conformed to the King (vv. 7-10)

- The pure in heart are true, per Psalm 24:3-4. What are other ways the Bible describes being pure in heart? Which ones are not a struggle for you, and which ones do you fail at time after time? What is the relationship between a pure heart and the actions that proceed from it?
- Kingdom people are reconcilers, per v. 9. This reflects the reconciliation with God that they have received at God's initiative. What are situations in your life where you neglect to be a peacemaker? What has deterred you from making peace? What are the means that God has provided you to overcome this? A common theme in Scripture is spiritual truth being pictured in the reality of how believers live in this life. In addition to peacemaking/reconciliation, what are other ways that sons of God reflect their Father?