

THE CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM

(Matthew 5:1-12)

- A. We have discussed 4 points about the Kingdom of God, Christ, Heaven:
1. It was Promised or Prophesied by the OT prophets: Samuel, Daniel, Isaiah, Micah, etc.
 2. It was Anticipated by John, Jesus, Jews, & the Disciples to be near in time.
 3. It was Established on the first Jewish Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus, whom Peter identified as “Lord and Christ” through the Power of the Holy Spirit.
 4. It was Identified by the preaching of Jesus & Paul who taught that when one obeys the gospel of Christ, he becomes at the same time a member of the church & a citizen of the kingdom.

B. To be in this Kingdom is to have a place of great honor.

1. Jesus said that John was the greatest of men, but He added that the least person the kingdom is greater than John (Matt 11:11).

[Jesus taught a parable that illustrates the point we want to make in this less: Who are “The children of the Kingdom”?]

I. TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE (Matt 13:24-30; 36-43)

- A. There are two spiritual races of people on this earth: the offspring of the Son of Man & the Wicked One.
1. The sons of the wicked one lay claim to the kingdom but act without authority from the King, so they are cast into a furnace of fire.
 2. The sons of the Son of man grow, thrive & are finally garnered into the kingdom of their Father to shine like the sun (1 Cor 15:24).

- a. Jesus implied there may be some degree of difficulty distinguishing them.

[That's the question we want to address today.

How may we identify the children of the kingdom? How do we distinguish the Wheat from the Tares?]

II. SERMON ON THE MOUNT (Matt 5:1-12)

[Jesus began His public ministry with 8 beatitudes; the word beatitude means “a state of utmost bliss”.

The children of the kingdom live in a state of utmost bliss because they have certain attitudes, which God rewards.

A. “Blessed are the poor in spirit” – HUMILITY

1. Humility tends to make one submissive to God's will, while pride tends to cause a person to assert his own will over God's will.

Prov 6:17 – The proud look is an abomination to the LORD

Luke 1:51 (Song of Mary) – God has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

1 John 2:15-17 – The pride of life -- is not of the Father but is of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1 Tim 6:3-5 – The proud do not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, & to the doctrine which accords with godliness.

2 Tim 3:1-5 – The proud have a form of godliness but deny its power, & they are responsible for the perilous times of our day & age.

1 Pet 5:5 – God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. (Jas 4:6)

Jas 4:7-10 (Humility cures Worldliness) – Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil & he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God & He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; & purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament & mourn & weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning & your joy to gloom. 10 **Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, & He will lift you**

Human pride will prevent every blessing promised & every action commanded in this passage.

2. Pride interferes with our relationship to God & others (Cain's sacrifice & sudden removal from the family).

- a. Pride destroys the cooperative work of a local church (Corinth).

- b. Pride keeps us from repenting of sin & saying, “I was wrong...I am sorry” (Ananias & Sapphira).
3. So Jesus began by describing the children of the kingdom with the phrase “poor in spirit” (humble).
- a. Peter was an example of humility (Luke 5:8).
 - b. The poor in spirit know they are spiritually impoverished; they comprehend their need for what God has offered them in Jesus Christ (Luke 19:10; Jn 10:10; 1 Pet 1:18).

[What state of utmost bliss belongs to the “humble”?
Jesus said, “For theirs is the kingdom of heaven”.]

B. “Blessed are those who mourn” – SORROWFUL

- 1. The children of the kingdom have the only proper response to sin, it grieves them!

- a. It grieves them because it grieves God, & it grieves God because it separates us from Him (Eph 4:30 Rom 6:23; Isa 59:1-2).

- 2. The Corinthian church exemplified this kind of sorrow over sin (1 Cor 5:1-2; 2 Cor 7:10-11).

- 3. Those who mourn over the sad state of man are those who emphasize the spiritual condition of man over the physical condition.

[Jesus said, “For they shall be comforted” ...by God’s promise of forgiveness & eternal life (Matt 11:28; Eph 1:7)]

C. “Blessed are the meek” – GENTLE

- 1. A wild horse may be beautiful to the eye, but it is of little value until it is brought under control.
 - a. Likewise, as long as we are doing our own thing we are of no value to God.

2. The children of the kingdom are under God's control; His Word acts like the bit & bridle.
3. Jesus was the prime example of meekness ([Isa 53:7](#); [Matt 26:53](#); [11:9](#)).
4. So meekness is power under control, resulting in a gentle disposition.
5. For a meek person, the power of the gospel is greater than the power of his own will.

[Jesus said, "For they shall inherit the earth".

They know that the earth belongs to God & it is by His power & will that we provide for ourselves ([Luke 11:2-13](#)), so why be harsh & demanding, be meek & trust in the power of the Lord.]

D. "Blessed are those who hunger & thirst for righteousness" – TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD

1. The children of the kingdom are aware of a basic need to be right with God, so they pursue righteousness as they would food & drink.

Psalms 119:172 – My tongue shall speak of Your word, for *all Your commandments are righteousness*.

Rev 22:17 – And the Spirit & the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" **And let him who thirsts come**. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Righteousness is attained through the gospel ([Rom 1:16-17](#)).

2. The Ethiopian eunuch was a man who desired to be right with God & to know His righteous will ([Acts 8:26-40](#)).

[Jesus said, "For they shall be filled"...with that state of righteousness which they seek from God.]

E. "Blessed are the merciful" – COMPASSIONATE

1. The children of the kingdom are merciful because God has been merciful to them.

2. But don't confuse mercy with permissiveness.
 - a. Some people think mercy means not ever pointing out fault, but sometimes the most merciful thing we can do is to identify sin in a person's life ([Acts 8:20-23](#); [Jas 5:19-20](#); [2 Tim 2:24-26](#)).
3. One is merciful person will do for others what he would like them to do for him if the circumstances were reversed ([Matt 7:12](#)).
4. A child of the King knows that God is merciful to them, so they show compassion to others in expectation of needing more mercy.

[Jesus said, "For they shall obtain [it] mercy".]

F. "Blessed are the pure in heart" – ONE PURPOSE

1. The children of the kingdom have lives that are uncluttered with conflicting purposes & interests.

2. Their sole desire & purpose in life is to live with God ([Matt 6:33](#); [7:7-11](#); [2 Tim 4:10](#)).
3. The heart of Demas had impurities ([2 Tim 4:10](#)).

[Jesus said, "For they shall see God".]

G. "Blessed are the peacemakers" – Peace Loving

1. The gospel is a message of peace that must be carried to all men ([Rom 10:15](#); [Eph 6:15](#)).
2. The children of the kingdom want more than anything else in this world to see a condition of peace between men & God ([Eph 2:13-19](#)).
3. Why do they want that? Because that is what their Heavenly Father wants, thus...

[Jesus said, "For they shall be called the sons of God".]

H. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake” – WRONGED FOR RIGHT

1. The kingdom of heaven belongs to those who do not waiver in their conviction & defense of the Truth, even in the face of mockery & rejection.
2. It’s sad to see people stand with churches & families against clear teaching of God’s Word.
3. Jesus pointed to the OT prophets as those who were wronged for a right cause ([Matt 23:29-35](#)).

[What state of utmost bliss belongs to them” Jesus said, “For theirs is the kingdom of heaven” – same as the first blessing in the first beatitude.]

CLOSING

- A. [This gives us](#) a clear image of “the children of the kingdom”, which Jesus identified in the parable of the wheat & tares.
1. If we keep on reading in the Sermon on the Mount we would have an even clearer image of the nature of citizenship in the kingdom of Jesus Christ.
 2. Where are you in relation to His kingdom?

GOD’S PLAN FOR OUR SALVATION:

Hear the gospel of Jesus Christ; read it in your Bible: Acts 2; 3; 13; Rom 10:17

Believe Jesus to be Lord and Christ, the Son of God and Savior: Acts 2:36; John 3:16; 8:24; 20:30-31; Acts 4:12; Titus 1:4

Repent of your sins: Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; 1 John 3:4

Confess your faith in Jesus Christ: Matt 10:32-33; Acts 8:37; Rom 10:9-10

Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins: Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-4; Gal 3:27; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet 3:21

Be obedient to the Lord, He will be your Judge: Titus 2:11-12; Heb 5:9; 2 John 9; Rev 2:10; John 12:48