

I. Foundational understanding of the Kingdom

A. From Genesis to Revelation the Bible is extremely clear that God is the king of all literal Kingdom.

Psalms 10:16 The LORD is King forever and ever...

Psalms 145:13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

B. It's important to realize that He wants the reign of His kingdom to manifest fully upon the earth.

Matthew 6:10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

C. God expressed this desire when He made a covenant with David stating that David would always have a man from His lineage sitting upon the throne of Israel and this throne would be established forever.

2 Samuel 7:16 And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.

D. On the Day of Pentecost Peter declared publicly that Jesus was in fact God's chosen king who would sit on David's throne forever.

Acts 2:30 Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne,

E. Peter further clarified this truth by stating that Heaven would be where Jesus would remain until an appointed time of restoration.

Acts 3:19-21 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, 20 and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, 21 whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

F. Undoubtedly this time of restoration was the time that the apostles first questioned Jesus about just before He ascended.

Acts 1:6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

II. The Culture of the Kingdom

A. The Sermon on the Mount was Jesus first public message. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus sets the stage for the rest of his earthly and eternal ministry. In it He sets up the value system of the kingdom of God which is the value system by which he will rule forever.

B. He gives new insights into the law delivered through Moses, yet He reinterprets it by the Holy Spirit and revelation rather than through the greed and compromise of the human heart, as the Pharisees and other teachers had.

C. Six times in Matthew 5 Jesus says “You have heard that it was said... , But I say” – he was reworking the things that had been wrong in their paradigm as to how they were to live.

III. The Beatitudes – 8 Core Values of the Kingdom

Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

A. Being poor in spirit is defined as blessed. Jesus is talking about a state of spiritual poverty that says, “I am nothing without God.” Spiritual poverty is not something to be graduated from in Christianity.

Matthew 5:4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

B. It is continuing to live a lifestyle of spiritual mourning for the Bridegroom. Touching the realities of spiritual barrenness and living in the tension of desire until comfort from heaven is manifest in our souls (Mat 9:15).

Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

C. A simple definition of meekness: faithfully cultivating a servant’s heart in order to attain the benefit of others above ourselves in regard to honor, privilege, and position.

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

D. Living with God as your portion in this age, it is not hungering for externals by which to prop yourself up to anesthetize your heart, it is hungering for God and God alone, as the sole source of your satisfaction.

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

E. Operating in a kind and gentle spirit towards all but especially toward those who do not deserve it.

F. There is a difficult tension between being “stewards of God’s mercy” in showing mercy and compromising by either being impatient(unmerciful) or too passive (tolerant).

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

G. Being pure in heart is not primarily about being sexually pure, instead its primarily about living with love as your primary motivation.

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

H. There is a great difference between being a peace “maker” and a peace “keeper”. Those who keep the peace passively allow division and difficulty to persist while not causing additional problems. Peacemakers are like the Son of God, they sacrifice their own comfort in order to bring peace to difficult situations.

Matthew 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. 13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

I. Ultimately those who are living righteously will suffer persecution as they lean into righteousness and reject wickedness. Jesus calls this blessed!

J. We must have a shift in our paradigm's to understand and embrace what Jesus values and how He invites His followers to live.