



Exploring God's Love through the Bible
The Message of Jesus Pt 3: Life in the Kingdom;
The Sermon on the Mount
Nov 27, 2016

Up to this point, we've looked at the Lord's loving message concerning His Gospel:

Mat 4:16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

Mat 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

And His loving call to deploy us, His disciples, in the Kingdom:

Mat 4:18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

Mat 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Mark's Gospel says it this way:

Mar 1:14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

Mar 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

As Jesus begins His ministry, what we literally see is the **explosion** of the entry of the Kingdom of God upon the earth. The **King** showed up! And Praise God, Jesus is KING!

Rev 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Luk 11:20 But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.

Luk 10:9 And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

PERSPECTIVES OF THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

- When Jesus saw the multitudes and began to teach, it was the inauguration of **Kingdom Living**.
- The King began to set in order how those members of the Kingdom were to live, interpreting and applying both the **Law** and the **Gospel** for the benefit of the citizens of the Kingdom.
- Very few believers look at the Sermon on the Mount (and the rest of the Gospels, and the Epistles for that matter) from this perspective.
- Although most would verbally acknowledge it, few Christians actually live as if Jesus is King and His commands are those of the KINGDOM.
- I may be wrong, but the casual way we view the King's edicts is a sure sign that in the hearts of many, the Kingdom is more about them than the King Himself.

WILLIAM MACDONALD WRITES:

It is no accident that the Sermon on the Mount is placed near the beginning of the NT. Its position indicates its importance. In it the King summarizes the character and conduct expected of His subjects.

This sermon is *not* a presentation of the plan of salvation; nor is its teaching intended for unsaved people. It was addressed to the disciples (5:1, 2) and was intended to be the constitution, or the system of laws and principles, which was to govern the King's subjects during His reign. It was meant for all—past, present, or future—who acknowledge Christ as King. When Christ was on earth, it had direct application to His disciples. Now, while our Lord reigns in heaven, it applies to all who crown Him King in their hearts.

CHARLES SPURGEON SAID:

Do not fall into the mistake of supposing that the opening verses of the Sermon on the Mount set forth how we are to be saved, or you may cause your soul to stumble. You will find the fullest light upon that matter in other parts of our Lord's teaching, but here He discourses upon the question, "Who are the saved?" or, "What are the marks and evidences of a work of grace in the soul?" Who should know the saved as well as the Savior does? The shepherd best discerns his own sheep, and the Lord, Himself alone knows infallibly them who are His. We may regard the marks of the blessed ones here given as being the sure witness of truth, for they are given by Him who cannot err, who cannot be deceived and who, as their Redeemer, knows His own. The Beatitudes derive much of their weight from the wisdom and glory of Him who pronounced them and, therefore, at the outset your attention is called thereto.

THE EXPOSITOR'S BIBLE DECLARES:

No mere sermon is this, only distinguished from others of its class by its reach and sweep and power: **it stands alone as the grand charter of the commonwealth of heaven;** or, to keep the simple title the evangelist himself suggests, (Mat 4:23) it is "The Gospel (or good news) of the Kingdom." To understand it aright we must keep this in mind, avoiding the easy method of treating it as a mere series of lessons on different subjects, and endeavoring to grasp the unity of thought and purpose which binds its different parts into one grand whole.

It may help us to do this if we first ask ourselves what questions would naturally arise in the minds of the more thoughtful of the people, when they heard the announcement, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." It was evidently, to such persons the Lord addressed Himself. "Seeing the multitudes," we read, "He went up into the mountain," perhaps for the purpose of selecting His audience. The idle and indifferent would stay down on the plain; only those who were in some measure stirred in spirit would follow Him as He climbed the steep ascent from the shore of the lake to the plateau above; and in their minds they would in all probability be revolving such questions as these:

1. "What is this kingdom, what advantages does it offer, and who are the people that belong to it?"
2. "What is required of those that belong to it? what are its laws and obligations?" And if these two questions were answered satisfactorily, a third would naturally follow-
3. "How may those who desire to share its privileges and assume its obligations become citizens of it?" These, accordingly, are the three great questions dealt with in succession.

EXHORTATIONS AND APPLICATIONS FOR THE CHURCH:

1. Let the King's commands change you. Be **teachable**. Be humble.
2. Think about your life in relation to Kingdom Living. Do you live as if Jesus is King?
3. Kingdom Living looks different. Can people see the Kings edicts lived out in your family?
4. What verses stood out to you? Commit to study them and pray through them later today.
5. One day, every knee will bow and tongue confess Jesus is Lord and King. What does this mean to you right now? (Php 2:10-11)

Thank you Lord for your Kingdom instructions. May we live for and obey You. You alone are King.

Amen.