



Exploring the Kingdom in Matthew: The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5-7

OUR PURPOSE IN MATTHEW:

To receive Kingdom encouragement and Kingdom strength from Matthew's Gospel.

THE NATURE OF KINGDOM

- The word *kingdom* comes from the Greek *basileia*, which means “The territory or country subject to a king; an undivided territory under the dominion of a king or monarch.” It follows then that a kingdom has a King! **Jesus Christ is that King!**
- The Kingdom of Christ, by its very nature, is in continual conflict with the Kingdom of Satan (darkness).
- The Kingdom also has a “**right now but not yet**” quality to it.
- It forms us into Kingdom Citizens and tells us how to represent the King on earth as His ambassadors (2 Cor 5:20) and soldiers (Matt 16:13-19; 2 Tim 2:3).

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

This is why, in what is widely acknowledged as the most powerful and profound homily in history, Matthew records the *Sermon on the Mount*. Many call this sermon the “Constitution of the Kingdom.”

“[The Sermon on the Mount] 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.”

–William MacDonald

“The Sermon on the Mount is the most complete delineation anywhere in the New Testament of the Christian Counter-culture.’ It lays out the difference between the Christian and non-Christian, the nominal church and the secular world...It has also been called ‘The Magna Carta of the Kingdom’ and ‘The Manifesto of the King.’ In sum, it is the constitution of the Christian’s life, desire, and character.”

–Rev. David Hall & John Stott

“Let us often study the Sermon on the Mount. Let us often ponder each sentence, and prove ourselves by it. Not least, let us often consider who they are that are called “blessed” at the beginning of the Sermon. Those whom the great High Priest blesses are blessed indeed!”

–Bishop J. C. Ryle

PERSONAL DEVOTION/FAMILY WORSHIP QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

1. Re-read the Sermon on the Mount as a family.
2. What adjustments can you make based on the King's words?
3. Given the perfect standards Christ teaches, do you see your utter need for Him?

Catechism

Question: What does God require from us to escape his anger and curse, which we deserve for our sin?

Answer: To escape God's anger and curse, which we deserve for our sins, God requires from us faith in Jesus Christ and repentance unto life along with diligent involvement in all the external ways Christ uses to bring us the benefits of redemption.