

Matthew 5-7

Matthew 4:23—5:12

23 And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

24 So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. 25 And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

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

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Context:

This section of Scripture (chapters 5-7) is **framed by**

- 4:23 gospel of the Kingdom of God
- And 7:21-27 (doing the words spoken by Jesus – the King of the Kingdom – in order to 'enter' (inherit) the Kingdom)

- Is preached as a Kingdom of **righteousness**
 - Kingdom – 4:23, 5:3, 10, 20, 6:10, 33 7:21
 - Righteousness – 5:6, 10, 20, 6:1, 10, 33
- **Blessedness** is to be found in the way of the Kingdom
 - In the way of righteousness
 - When we first come into the Kingdom we also come into the blessedness of salvation.
 - Having the Kingdom is meant to be an ongoing blessedness for us
 - We are meant to continue in this and continue to see, enter, inherit the Kingdom
- **Ungrieved Spirit**
 - Walking in step with Him
 - Relying on His work in and through us
- Anticipates some the passages to come in Matthew’s gospel about the **cost of following Jesus**
 - Persecution for the sake of His name, for righteousness sake
 - Being and making disciples
- This sermon is a word **to be lived in – obeyed (Mt 7:21-27)**
- Speaks of the landscape of the kingdom becoming the **landscape of our heart**
- Presents a **counter culture**
 - We are not to be like the world we live in (we are to be salt and light)
 - Displaying the Kingdom of God and His righteousness will attract persecution
- Blessed in order **to be a blessing to the world** we live in (we are salt and light)

The Kingdom

There are stages to the Kingdom

- Was from the beginning but things went wrong
- Has come (in Jesus – the King),
- Is coming (on earth) and
- Will come (be fully restored in the new heavens and the new earth)

1. Was from the beginning but was 'lost' on earth

- In the sense that men and women no longer had access
- Could no longer enter into the benefits of it and
- Could no longer even see its glory

2. Has now come

- John the Baptist first announces the coming of the kingdom and then Jesus picks this up when John is arrested. **Mat 3:2, Mat 4:17 / Mark 1:14-15**
 - The good news of the Kingdom was the primary way Jesus preached the gospel
 - The Kingdom is the gospel – the good news
- The King has come but He came in humility (**Phil 2:1-11**), riding on a donkey
- Demonstrated the way of the Kingdom (righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit)
- He also demonstrated the authority, power and glory of the Kingdom (abundant life, miracles) – **Matthew chapters 8 & 9**
- Jesus brings the Kingdom into a new stage / phase of restoration in His death, resurrection and glorification
- The Kingdom can now be received by all who repent and believe (**Mat 4:17 / Mark 1:14-15**)

3. Is coming

- Glory of the Kingdom is not yet fully visible
 - Not yet seen by everyone
 - We can see it – to us is given the mystery of the Kingdom
 - We see, by faith, what everyone will see when Jesus comes again
 - Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord
- It is coming for all who repent and believe
 - Become citizens of the Kingdom
 - We get Jesus (the King) when we get the Kingdom
 - Become subjects of the King
 - Come under His authority – His Lordship
 - Also come under His blessing

- Is coming, on earth, in this age
 - Is being restored
 - Is being extended (**Psalm 110**)
 - But will only be complete when Jesus comes again
- Jesus, as King, is still at the forefront of this expansion of the Kingdom on earth
 - Jesus is now glorified
 - Riding a white stallion
 - Triumphant / victorious
 - Conquering and to conquer

We are to pursue the coming of the Kingdom – as Jesus does

- Seek it first
 - There is nothing that has greater importance for us in terms of what we give our time, energy, our whole lives to
 - It is the treasure in the field, the pearl of great price, that we are prepared to give everything for
 - Seek the Kingdom first because of the King
 - Seek it first because it is His primary agenda on earth
 - Do not seek it as a means to get something
 - The poor in spirit have received the greatest treasure of all

We pursue (seek) the coming of the Kingdom

- On earth
 - In us
 - For those who are not yet saved
 - There is authority and power in the Kingdom (in the gospel) to banish
 - The power of sin and sickness
 - Spiritual poverty and captivity
 - Mourning and brokenness
 - There are flashes of glory as the Kingdom comes
 - In every salvation
 - In every transformed life
 - In every miracle, deliverance, etc.

- The Kingdom is advancing
 - This is the primary story of history – even if it is hidden, not seen, not visible to all
 - It is on track. God keeps it on track. He is the King of History
- Are also to see it come FOR us
 - See / enter the Kingdom daily
 - This is not speaking of salvation
 - We inherit the Kingdom in this life – on earth
 - Enjoy the benefits of the kingdom
 - Blessedness
 - Abundant life
 - Righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (notice this is not territory or anything material)
 - We can trust God for the provision we need to do the will of God (and more)
 - The authority and power of the Kingdom at work in us
 - The daily leading and empowering of the Holy Spirit

We seek first the Kingdom (and its coming) by:

- Seeing it come in us
 - Being transformed, by changing our mind (repentance)
 - The beatitudes
 - Having a righteousness that exceeds that of the Pharisees
 - The landscape of the Kingdom becomes the landscape of our hearts
 - It is a Kingdom of:
 - Love
 - Grace
 - Mercy
 - Forgiveness that flows as willingly and freely as the forgiveness we have received
- Making the Kingdom visible
 - Salt
 - Light

- Being disciples of Jesus
 - Have been with Him
 - Have been taught by Him
 - Walk in His ways
 - Obey His commands
 - Follow Him step by step
 - Lay down our lives for Him and for each other
- Preaching the gospel
 - Proclaim the good news
 - Demonstrating the ways and power of the Kingdom
 - As the Holy Spirit leads and empowers
- In persistent faith
 - Patience
 - Perseverance
 - Inherit the promises (Heb 6:120)
- In sacrifice
- In prayer
 - As Jesus taught us to pray
 - Probably the most important thing we can do
 - Everything else we do flows from this
 - May also be the most difficult thing for us to do
 - Learn to pray day and night for this

4. The Kingdom will come full of glory

- When Jesus comes
 - Full of Glory
- Restoration will be complete in the new heavens and the new earth
 - We receive a glorified body that is made for that new earth
- First judgement
 - Sin, sickness and all that is broken is deal with forever
 - Then eternal life in the presence of God

Mt 5:20

²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Mt 6:1

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

Mt 6:10

¹⁰ Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Mt 6:33

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Mt 7:21

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 3:1-2

1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,
2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Mark 1:14-15

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God,
15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Matthew 4:17

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."