

King Jesus Gospel _ Ep. 5

Matthew 5:1-12 (NLT)

One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him,² and he began to teach them.

³ *"God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.*

⁴ *God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

⁵ *God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.*

⁶ *God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.*

⁷ *God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

⁸ *God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.*

⁹ *God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.*

¹⁰ *God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.*

¹¹ *"God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹² Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.*

Three small details that have significance in the passage:

(1) Crowds

(2) Disciples

(3) The Mountain

Jesus teaches that the way of the Kingdom will produce the good life.

Jesus teaches that the way of the kingdom will produce the good life for others to taste and see.

Matthew 5:13-16 (NLT)

¹³ *"You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.*

¹⁴ *"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.*

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Jesus teaches that the way of the Kingdom will produce the good life for others to taste and see, but it requires a righteousness we cannot produce on our own.

Matthew 5:17–20 (NLT)

¹⁷ “Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. ¹⁸ I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved. ¹⁹ So if you ignore the least commandment and teach others to do the same, you will be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But anyone who obeys God’s laws and teaches them will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

²⁰ “But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!

Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-22 (NLT)

¹¹ Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. ¹² But our High Priest offered himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then he sat down in the place of honor at God’s right hand. ¹³ There he waits until his enemies are humbled and made a footstool under his feet. ¹⁴ For by that one offering he forever made perfect those who are being made holy.

¹⁹ And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. ²⁰ By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place.

²¹ And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God’s house, ²² let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

PRACTICING THE WAY

As disciples of Jesus, we know our allegiance to Him as King is expressed in our daily practice. We are not pursuing perfection, but want to practice our faith each day. These practices will point you toward spiritual formation as an apprentice (disciple) to Jesus.

Read through the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John), slowly.

Meditate on each phrase of this Gospel summary:

The Gospel is the good news that God our Father, the Creator, out of His great love for us, has come to rescue us from sin, satan, death and hell, and to renew all things, in and through the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf, to establish His kingdom, through His people who participate in loyal allegiance in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is for God’s great glory, and our profound joy.

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Talk it Over (with friends, a spouse, or connect group)

- Read Matthew 5:1. Sunday's message we looked at Jesus desire to move us from the crowd into apprenticing to Him. Did anything speak to you or stir a question within you?
- How would you describe someone who is teachable?
- Read Matthew 5:2-20. What are you learning and seeing in these verses?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to use the example of salt and light to describe our participation in the Kingdom?
- What is a paradox?
To understand the Kingdom we must understand paradox. For example, we are unqualified to enter God's Kingdom and be apprentices to Jesus who lead others to be apprentices too. But, we are not disqualified because of Jesus. Discuss this paradox and the others found in Matthew 5:1-20.