



Principles of the Kingdom ~ 1

We have been studying the coming of the Kingdom of God. Jesus is the King of that Kingdom. During the early years of His life, Jesus was being prepared for His ministry. Then following His baptism we are told that Jesus went out and preached about the Kingdom.

Matthew 4:17 _____

Matthew 4:23 _____

In the Book of Matthew there are 5 sections where the author records the teaching that Jesus gave about the Kingdom. The first section is in Matthew 5 – 7. These chapters are often called ‘The Sermon on the Mount’ as Jesus taught from the mountainside. This was probably on the north-west corner of the Sea of Galilee. In the Old Testament it is interesting to note that Moses received the law while on a mountain!

KINGDOM CHARACTER

Matthew 5:1-12

When we enter the Kingdom we receive a new nature. What is this nature like? Jesus describes this nature or character in the ‘Beatitudes’. These are found in Matthew 5:1-12. The word ‘beatitude’ means ‘a declaration of blessedness’.



What do you think the word ‘blessed’ means?

Look at each quality described in these verses and compare them to the qualities we see in the world. (The first one is done for you.)

Verse	Quality in the world	Quality in the Kingdom of God
Verse 3	Proud, self-sufficient, a person who says, ‘I can do it myself’.	<p>‘Poor in spirit’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A person who has a humble opinion of himself - Recognizes his need for God - ‘I need you’ <p>We can only enter the Kingdom of God when we admit our need for God.</p>
Verse 4		<p>‘Those who mourn’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A person who admits his sinfulness - Confesses and mourns over his sin <p>When we mourn and confess our sin we are forgiven and comforted by God.</p>
Verse 5		<p>‘Meek’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is not weakness - Moses and Jesus were meek - A meek person accepts God’s dealings in his life without arguing <p>The meek will be the kind of people God will use to rule in His Kingdom in the coming ages.</p>

Verse 6		<p>'Hunger and thirst for righteousness'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We receive righteousness as a gift - But now we must hunger to become righteous - In the physical realm there is no growth without hunger, and this also true in the spiritual realm. <p>When we hunger – we will be satisfied. Psalm 45:7</p>
Verse 7		<p>'Merciful'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An outward manifestation of pity - Sees a need, cares and does something about it <p>When we are merciful we will receive God's mercy.</p>
Verse 8		<p>'Pure in heart'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God gives us a new heart - Now He wants to purify our hearts so there is no mixture <p>When our heart is pure we can 'see' in the realm of the Spirit. E.g. Jesus in John 5:19-20</p>
Verse 9		<p>'Peacemakers'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have peace with God through Jesus - Holy Spirit produces peace in us - We are now to speak peace and bring peace
Verse 10		<p>'Persecuted for righteousness sake'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are not blessed if we deserve the evil spoken to us - We are blessed if we are persecuted because we live a righteous life - Jesus was persecuted so we can expect to be also <p>God rewards those who suffer for Him, so we can rejoice.</p>



Which one of these qualities do you want God to work in your life? Share and pray together.

The qualities we have looked at are all seen perfectly in Jesus. He wants these to be developed in all who belong to His Kingdom. As we allow the Holy Spirit to change us we will be _____.