

Series: Upside-Down Kingdom
Passage: Matthew 5:1-12
Sunday: April 14, 2024

Matthew 5:1-12 (ESV)

5 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.

1. This section of the sermon on the mount is often called the Beatitudes. What does the word Beatitude mean? Why is this significant?

2. Verse 3 gives a sense that "spiritual beggars" will possess the kingdom of heaven. How does recognizing ourselves as spiritual beggars affect the way we live each day?

3. How does God satisfy those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (verse 7)?

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4. Explain what mercy is. Why is being merciful a requirement for receiving mercy?

5. How can we tell whether we are “pure of heart”? How can you intentionally move this direction?

6. How does peace play a role in the narrative of the Bible? How can we reflect and participate in that story with our own peacemaking?

7. Why is persecution a necessary part of the Christian life? How does Christ’s death and resurrection give us comfort in the face of persecution?

8. Which of the beatitudes are uncomfortable to you? Which make you reevaluate your own faithfulness in following Jesus?