
THE BLESSED LIFE

Part 1 - Wise People Act

The Sermon on the Mount is a message that declares the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven, where Jesus paints a picture of what kingdom people act like. This is the Blessed Life.

In what has been called the greatest talk in the history of the world, Jesus identifies that people are going to have a problem with committing to being kingdom people or not. At the end of His sermon Jesus uses a parable to clearly paint a picture between those who put into practice His words and those who don't (Matthew 7:24-25).

Our prayer through this series:

God, make us doers of the word. Help us to not just hear, not just know, but actually do what Jesus said.

This is what means to live the Blessed Life – that we would be a people who in every aspect of our lives live differently, think differently, talk differently. We become the ambassadors for the Kingdom of heaven that Jesus desires us to be.

Your Kingdom Come

The Sermon on the Mount is not a list of rules or a list of moral principles or ethical guidelines.

The Sermon on the Mount is an announcement that the Kingdom of heaven is near, and this is what it looks like (Matthew 4:17).

The people of Israel have been waiting for this new kingdom – God’s kingdom to reign. Jesus comes and He says, “The Kingdom of Heaven has come near”. Life together with God, in God’s favour, in God’s presence, that life has now become available down here to ordinary people – that grabs their attention.

The divine conspiracy to subvert the kingdom of the earth has begun (Matthew 6:10).

Hearers or Doers

Jesus gives a bunch of pictures or illustrations of what it looks like when people begin to live a Kingdom kind of life – a blessed life.

Do we, as a church, have a knowing problem? Or do we have a doing problem?

As we move through this series, we will be challenged over what we hear. And so were those who were listening to Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. Matthew carefully paints a clear picture of two groups of people listening to the Sermon on the Mount.

1. *Doers – Disciples (Matthew 5:1-2)*

The disciples are not just hearers of the word they are doers.

2. *Hearers – Crowd (Matthew 7:28)*

The crowds would come because He did amazing things and said amazing words. They were amazed but they were uncommitted. They were hearers only – their foundation wasn’t firm, it didn’t stand the storms of life.

Disciples decide to put into practice the words of Jesus; they become the bearer of a new kingdom. It's these people who build their life, their house upon the rock, not on the sand. It is these people who don't avoid the storms of life but stand through them. These people are living the blessed life.

Jesus knows that His teaching is true. Yet what makes the foundation a rock is not only the content of His message but its application by the hearer. It was not good teaching alone that was needed but heart theology.

A house built on the rock will mean a foundation of solid, biblical theology and the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The promise Jesus gives is that the blessed life is one which stands even amidst the storms of life.

The challenge to us today is will we be a people who build upon the sand or the rock? The difference is not in what we hear, not just what we know but in what we will do!

As we are challenged by some very practical examples that Jesus talks about, the proof for us as disciples will be in what we will put into practice. It is not only when we accept the theology but also "ask, seek, knock", in order to be blessed by the Holy Spirit that we are considered wise.

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss your response to the message.
2. What has been your understanding of the Sermon on the Mount? Does this differ from what you have understood from the message?
3. What are the personal implications of being a kingdom people according to the passage of Matthew 7:24-29?
4. What are the areas of your life you think may be challenged most about being a doer rather than a hearer of the word? What stops you being a doer of the word in these areas?
5. Spend some time in worship and allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to you about having your heart ready to pray the prayer of a doer.

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