
THE BLESSED LIFE

Part 2 - You're Blessed

The Kingdom of Heaven functions so differently to what we experience of the world. As we look today at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, we are going to see how the Kingdom of Heaven blesses and acts in the opposite way to the world.

In Deuteronomy the people of God come through the wilderness to the border of the Promised Land and God gives to them a covenant before they step into the land. In Matthew, before we get to chapter 5:1-11, Jesus has come out of Egypt in chapter 2:15, through the water and wilderness in chapters 3 and 4, and into the Promised Land in chapter 4:12-25. Now He is speaking out the new covenant to the people - one that is entirely focused on what it looks like to be a part of the Kingdom of Heaven in chapter 5:1-11.

Revelation of Need

Matthew 5:2-4 - The Beatitudes

He said:

- + *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
- + *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*
- + *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

All three of these opening verses are centred around a realisation of insufficiency of the current earthly structure. The poor in spirit recognise that their own spirit is destitute without the Lord.

They feel their lack, not just on a physical level, but a spiritual level and it's that realisation of the need that drives them towards the Kingdom of Heaven. Need recognises the lack and looks to the place where it is filled, which is the sufficiency of the Lord as the Kingdom comes here and now.

Verse 4, 'Blessed are those who mourn' points to a need that goes beyond the mourning of those lost, but to those who mourn the sin that has created the gap of relationship between the Lord and themselves.

Verse 5, 'Blessed are the meek' is flow on from those who recognise the poverty that causes them to mourn their lack, and creates in them a disposition of discipleship. The meek are not walkovers but understand their own position in the context of the Kingdom of Heaven and look to assert the kingdom of themselves.

Maybe today you are sitting here feeling the need. Maybe your feeling that poverty of spirit of what the world offers, maybe you are mourning that need. The wonderful news, the blessing is that the kingdom of heaven is here to bless you.

Revelation of Righteousness

Matthew 5:6

- + *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

The next blessing or very good news is centred around what happens when the Kingdom meets those who realise their need for the Lord. They seek righteousness.

Those who live in the way of the first three Beatitudes and who hunger after the kingdom are blessed with righteousness for this is the opposite of what they experience in the natural of the current world.

Revelation of Action

Matthew 5:7-11

- + *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*
- + *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*
- + *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*
- + *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
- + *Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.*

The final set of Beatitudes flow on from the rest of the Beatitudes. The people who recognise the need for the Kingdom and so are blessed by the Kingdom then move in action to continue to help bring the Kingdom to the world here and now. Action now becomes part of the blessing or the good news.

The revelation and acknowledgement of the need for the Kingdom means that Kingdom will fill, bless and reveal the Lord.

We are blessed to know that we need the Lord and His Kingdom, and it should lead us to being filled with the righteousness we seek. From there it should lead us to action. This is the blessed life and one that comes as we look to what Jesus has done and we follow in his footsteps. The kingdom is here and now.