

The Sermon on the Mount by Jesus is known as His Kingdom manifesto. Our focus is on verses 5-12 of chapter 5. My source is the Tony Evans Bible Commentary.

In this sermon, Jesus explains what the kingdom is, how the kingdom works, and what the kingdom ought to look like.

The first set of verses, 5:3-10, are about the character of kingdom men and women. The Beatitudes can be called antibiotics from God's pharmacy that can aid life transformation

There is a blessing in each Beatitude. Jesus pronounced these blessings upon people that have a kingdom mindset. These people consciously align their lives under the rule of God. These blessings are for people who reject religious externalism. Jesus' primary concern is on what happens on your INSIDE, which should be the basis of what you are showing on the outside.

Matt.5:3 "Poor in spirit" refers to spiritual poverty, which means to be aware of one's continual dependence on God. Kingdom people realize their own inadequacy and insufficiency apart from Him. Only by becoming desperately dependent on God can you become what He created you to be.

Matt.5:4. This refers to us being saddened by the things that sadden God. God is sad over sin and the wretchedness of the world. We must not laugh at or excuse anything that causes God to mourn. We must pray that God would give us the emotions of His heart.

Matt.5:5 In this Beatitude, "humble" refers to being "meek." Meekness does not mean weakness. To be meek is to learn to submit your will to God's will. Those who do this will inherit(receive) what God has allowed for them.

Matt 5:6 The blessing in this Beatitude refers to having the right spiritual attitude. Far too many of God's children are malnourished, not because they do not eat, but because they eat the wrong things. Believers need to hunger for things that pleases God. Too many Christians are on a donut-level spiritual diet. Donuts taste good, but they have no nutritional value. (Heb. 5:13-14).

Matt. 5:7 To receive mercy is to not get what you deserve, to receive pity instead of just condemnation. Rather, when you're guilty, mercy removes the misery you ought to receive. There is a blessing for those who extend mercy(the Golden Rule, Matt.7:12, in action).

Matt. 5:8 Purity of heart involves being authentic (real), and this means being honest before God. We must come clean before Him about the good, the bad , and the ugly. Then we will see the power of God operate in our lives.

Matt 5:9 To be at peace is to be at harmony. To be a peacemaker is to be a mediator and to resolve conflicts between individuals or groups. You make peace by identifying truth, addressing sin, and building a bridge between people who are at odds with each other.

Matt.5:10 This Beatitude is not about being persecuted (cruel treatment) because of wickedness. This is about being persecuted because you display the kingdom characteristics in Matthew 5:3-9. If you are willing to be rejected by men in order to be accepted by God, then the kingdom of heaven is yours .

Matt.5:11-12 It is hard to believe that undergoing persecution is a blessing. Jesus was serious about this. Notice that persecution that brings blessings has to be directly tied to Jesus. When people insult you and lie on you because of Jesus, you are blessed. Because the Old Testament prophets were treated this way, you are in good company. You can rejoice and be glad lad because your reward in heaven will be great! GOD KNOWS HOW TO DELIVER!!