



ACT ONE: KINGDOM LIFESTYLE

Presence (5:1 – 6:18)

Matthew 5:1 – 16

All nine verses in Matthew 5 vs. 3-11 begin with the Greek word *makarios*, which means “Blessed is...” or “Happy is...” The Latin word for blessed is *beatus*, and so many people call these verses the Beatitudes.

Matthew tells us Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount both to the disciples (5:1-2) and to the crowds (7:28).

- For the disciples → to act as subjects of the Kingdom of God.
- For the unbelieving crowd → a call to follow Jesus and live His way instead of the world’s.

Beatitudes call you to pull down the false god of popularity and follow the real God → face your fears.

The Sermon on the Mount spells out the new lifestyle of those who follow Jesus.

- It tells people who profess to follow Him yet live like the world that they are like ‘unsalty salt’, which is only fit to be ‘*thrown out and trampled by men*’.
- It is a call to lay down our lives and walk a different road.

To convince non-Christians that the Gospel is true, we need to live out His teaching.

- Become salt and light to the world.
 - ❖ these are effective because they are different to the world, therefore they attract others who will see the difference of God’s Kingdom in our lives.
 - Not to blend in but to stick out, embracing God’s Revolution in our own lives and therefore sparking a revolution in the lives of those around us!
- Don’t wear yourself out chasing down non-Christians, rather open yourself up and shine your light – living out faith – and they will come to you → (insects + light)
- When people see your good deeds they will ‘praise your Father in heaven’.

Let’s be those whose lives preach the Gospel and attract people to Jesus Christ.

Matthew 5:17 – 48

- Pharisees were deeply religious people; they preached obedience to Mosaic Law.
- They were the greatest teachers of Law and had done everything humanly possible to bring Israel back to God.
 - ❖ 'humanly possible' = lists and rules.

BUT we can't sanctify ourselves from outside in by doing religious works or following rules.

- Only the gracious work of God can set us free → inside out.
 - ❖ The Holy Spirit comes into us to take sin out and set us free from sin.
- The Sermon on the Mount is a set of promises that Jesus will place Kingdom obedience in the Hearts of those who leave everything to follow Him.
- We will not become sinless, but by grace we can *sin less*.

God saves by grace through faith and then sanctifies us, baptising us in the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 6:1 – 18

- The Gospel tells us that in Christ, God is our Father.
- The fact that God is our Father and we are His children is at the heart of Kingdom Revolution.
- 'Abba' or Father is a very intimate word.
- The Jews tried to stone Jesus when He called God, Father; John 5:18.

- We don't strive for God's attention or play-act prayer but rather relate to God as our Abba with intimacy.
 - ❖ We live to please God and not man.
 - ❖ Fix your eyes on the Father and approach Him like children to enjoy His presence and receive His answer.

- We should pray, fast and give in secret because we live for an audience of One.
 - ❖ In doing this we will receive our hearts desires.

- As God is our Father, we have joyful access to His presence.
- Don't come groveling to God each day for this makes out like God is a harsh father.
 - ❖ Psalm 100 vs. 4 – come with thanksgiving and praise.
- As he is our Father, we should make time for Him – amazing thing about the Gospel is that God should make time for us but we as humans struggle to find time for prayer.
 - ❖ The bible encourages us to pray throughout the day.
 - ❖ Jesus also tells us to build a routine of spending a set time in a set place with the Father.

- Jesus gives us a structure to pray by; copy His example as He would pray through the night or at short intervals.
- At the heart of God's Kingdom is intimate fellowship with God Almighty, who has become our *Abba*, our *Dad*.

Pray, fast and give for we have been adopted as His children; in doing this, we see His Kingdom advance in us!