

Introduction - Called to a Kingdom

Series: The Sermon on the Mount

After John the Baptist died, Jesus began to preach - the essence of His message is this

- Matt 4:17 From that time **Jesus began to preach**, saying, "**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**"

The kingdom was manifested in power Mat 4:23

Large crowds were attracted Mat 4:24-25

He gathered and taught - Sermon on the mount is about Life in THAT Kingdom

The poor in spirit (poor like beggars) - we have nothing to bring, must rely on the resources of Jesus

- Mat 5:1-3 ESV 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**."

That the kingdom of heaven is worth suffering for → It exists beyond this life (future martyrs are here)

- Mat 5:10 "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."

Greatness in the kingdom is linked to doing and teaching his commandments

- Mat 5:19 ESV Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called **least in the kingdom of heaven**, but **whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven**. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The kingdom is HIS WILL BEING DONE ON EARTH - the kingdom is where the king reigns (my life)

- Mat 6:10 ESV Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
- Mat 7:21 ESV "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

When it comes to things of this life - seek FIRST the kingdom

- Mat 6:25 ESV "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"
- Mat 6:33 ESV But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Summary → The message of Repent the kingdom of heaven is at hand - challenges our thinking and action

- Have you recognized you have nothing to bring to the table - it is the grace and mercy of Jesus
- Are you willing to suffer, are you currently suffering - his kingdom is worth it
- What is your relationship to His word? (obedience and teaching his commands)
- What about surrender to His will?
- Anxiety about the cares of life, or seeking first the kingdom