



HEAVEN IN SPAIN

Church and the Kingdom

Session 8 - Principles of entering the kingdom



Building your
life on kingdom
principles is
wise
Matt 7:24-27

- “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”
- Three directions of testing – above (rain), side (wind), below (flood)
- Above (Heaven), Side (People), Below (Enemy)???



Entering by encounter

- **Jesus - Matthew 17:1-2** "Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.
- **Saul - 1 Samuel 10:6,9** ⁶Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man...⁹So it was, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, that God gave him another heart; and all those signs came to pass that day.

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Entering through developmental relationship e.g. Moses and Joshua

- **Deuteronomy 34:9** "Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him"
 - **Moses and Joshua fought together (Exodus 17:9-14)**
 - **Moses and Joshua encountered the Lord together (Exodus 24:13 – 14)**
 - **Joshua allowed Moses to broaden his thinking (Numbers 11:26 -29)**
 - **Moses sent Joshua on special assignments (Numbers 13:16 -20)**
 - **Moses delegated authority to Joshua (Numbers 27:18-23)**
 - **Moses encouraged Joshua in front of everyone (Deuteronomy 31:7-8)**

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Entering through tribulation

- **Acts 14:22** "strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."
- **Romans 5:3-5** "And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

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The Romans 5 change process

Tribulation

- Internal Pressure

Perseverance

- to "stay under"

Character

- "trustiness, experience, proof, trial"

Hope

- 2 sources of hope from Hebrews 6)

Imparted Love

- The purpose

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Attitudes for entering the kingdom -selflessness (love)

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- **Matthew 16:25** - For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
- **Personally – Matthew 19:27** “Then Peter said to him, “See, we have left everything and followed you. So what will we get?”
- **Your group (church etc) – Luke 9:49** Now John answered and said, “Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow with us.”
- **Your culture, race etc – Luke 9:52-54** And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?”
- **Who are we including?**



Attitudes for entering the kingdom -sacrifice

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- **Jesus - John 12:23-25**
- But Jesus answered them, saying, “The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life
- **Us - Romans 12:1**
- I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service*
- **What am I sacrificing?**



Principles of the kingdom Servanthood

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- **Matthew 6:1-4**
- Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ³But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.
- **What is my motive in serving?**
- **What am I doing in any area to be seen by people?**



Principles of the kingdom Servanthood "The beatitudes"

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- **Matthew 5:6-12**
- "Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. Blessed *are* the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. Blessed *are* the pure in heart, For they shall see God. Blessed *are* the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. Blessed *are* those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven,



Principles of the kingdom Servanthood Justice and Mercy

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- **Hungering and thirsting for righteousness - Matthew 5:6**
 - “That right would prevail” - Justice
 - When we acknowledge our inadequacy (Poor in Spirit), repent (Mourn), the end result is a deep hunger for things of God and His Kingdom
- **Merciful toward others - Matthew 5:7**
 - Spread the kingdom in kingdom ways
 - Helping others even if they don’t deserve it.
 - The problem Christians often have is that after receiving God’s grace, they impose expectations on others that cannot possibly be met. Grace is withheld instead of mercy being shown.



Principles of the kingdom Servanthood Justice and Mercy Matthew 20:1-16

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- “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. Now when he had agreed with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and whatever is right you will receive.’” So when evening had come, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the laborers and give them *their wages*, beginning with the last to the first.’ And when those came who *were hired* about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius. But when the first came, they supposed that they would receive more; and they likewise received each a denarius. And when they had received *it*, they complained against the landowner, saying, ‘These last *men* have worked *only* one hour, and you made them equal to us who have borne the burden and the heat of the day.’ But he answered one of them and said, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take *what is yours* and go your way. I wish to give to this last man *the same* as to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?’ So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.”



Principles of the kingdom Servanthood Peace and Purity

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- **Purity of heart - Matthew 5:8**
 - Moral purity – (Purity of inward thought & motive and single-mindedness – a heart that is free from being divided between God & worldliness.)
 - To be pure in heart speaks of our motives.
- **Makers of peace - Matthew 5:9**
 - Overcome evil with good
 - The ability to bring a calming influence into every situation.
 - Why are Peace Makers called "Sons of God"?
- **Willingness to endure persecution for the kingdom and for Jesus - Matthew 5:10-12**



Principles of the kingdom Servanthood Compassion

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- **Matthew 20:29-33**
- Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him. And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!" Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!" So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Lord, that our eyes may be opened." So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.



Principles of the kingdom Servanthood Second Mile

Matthew 5:39-44

But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, **turn the other to him also**. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him **have your cloak also**. And whoever compels you to go one mile, **go with him two**. **Give to him who asks you**, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, **love your enemies**, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you

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Principles of the kingdom Servanthood Promotion

• Matthew 20:25-28

- But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

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Principles of the kingdom Prayer Matthew 6:5-6

- ⁵“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ⁶But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly
- **Why am I praying?**
- **Do I pray in secret?**
- **When I pray in public, is it 100% directed toward the Lord?**

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Principles of the kingdom Secrecy Matthew 6:16-18

- ¹⁶“Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ¹⁷But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.
- **Why am I doing spiritual things?**
- **Do I fast in secret?**
- **What do I look like when I fast?**
- **Am I physically, emotionally and spiritually enriched by fasting?**

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Principles of the kingdom Faith

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- **Quietening the storm - Matthew 14:31** - And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"
- **Feeding the 5000 - Matthew 16:8** - But Jesus, being aware of *it*, said to them, "O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread?"
- **Casting out demons - Matthew 17:20** - So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."



Principles of the kingdom Faith

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- **Hebrews 11:1** "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
- The Greek word that is translated "substance" in the preceding Scripture means "setting under".
- Other translations translate this "substance" word as "being sure of" (NIV), "confident assurance" (TLB), "the confirmation, the title deed" (AMP), and "assurance" (NAS).



Principles of the kingdom Faith

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- **Mark 11:23-24** "For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."
- Doubt in your heart (not mind)
- "Doubt" - "diakrino" which means "to judge" or to "discern"
- "Doubt" is the difference between what our spirit believes and what our minds think. Doubt is not the opposite of faith, it is the barometer of faith.
- We don't just decide not to doubt. Decision is a mental operation where faith and doubt are spiritual qualities.
- If we have only decided to have faith, then what we really have is hope. (Which is still powerful)



Principles of the kingdom Faith

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- **Faith comes from hearing** - *Romans 10:17* "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."
- **Faith comes from doing** - *Luke 17:5-6* "And the apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' So the Lord said, 'If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.'"
- **Faith comes from fighting** - *1 Timothy 6:12* "fight the good fight of faith"
- **Faith comes from the Scriptures** - *1 Thessalonians 2:13* "For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe."
- **Faith comes from visualising** - *Isaiah 60:4-5* "Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be nursed at your side. Then you shall see and become radiant, and your heart shall swell with joy; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you."
- **Faith comes as a gift** - *1 Corinthians 12:9...11* "to another faith by the same Spirit... But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills."



Principles of the kingdom Humility

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- **Child likeness - Matthew 18:3-4** - "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."
- *If we approach life whether it be relationships or science with an open teachable mind, the kingdom is ours*



Principles of the kingdom Humility

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- **Matthew 23:5-12**
- But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called teachers (*masters*); for One is your Teacher (*Master*), the Christ. But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.



Principles of the kingdom Humility

- Inward rather than outward devotion
- Do not be called
 - “*fathers*” - age or experience is not necessarily a great guide to the kingdom, especially as we need to be child-like as well as bring new (and old) treasure
 - “*teachers*” – as that attitude can be “I know and you don’t” – children are open, receptive, eager to learn
 - “*masters*” – or in our language “leaders” – which can cause a self-assertive attitude for people to do what you say (leadership is not just managing in a fussy manner)

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Principles of the kingdom Humility

- **Matthew 5:3-5**
- “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit,
• For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed *are* those who mourn,
• For they shall be comforted.
- Blessed *are* the meek,
• For they shall inherit the earth.

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Principles of the kingdom Humility

- **Poverty of spirit - Matthew 5:3**
 - One who makes a realistic appraisal of their life such that they are conscious of their entire need before God.
 - Paul expresses this character in Phil 3:8-10 "I count everything as loss that I might gain Christ..."
 - Not for the worthy but for the receptive
 - We don't achieve it, but rather we receive it
 - Shut off to the self-centred, proud, self-sufficient
- **Mourning - Matthew 5:4**
 - A quality that flows from v3. - a deep repentance before God
 - Emotionally connected to others
 - There is comfort for this in the kingdom
- **Meekness toward God and others - Matthew 5:5**
 - Meek is not weak
 - Meekness relates to teachable ness

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Principles of the kingdom Heavenly focussed

- **Matthew 6:19-21** - ¹⁹"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- **John 6:15** - Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.
- **Where are you putting your treasure?**
- **Where are you laying up *for yourself*?**
- **Are you laying up for others on Earth and in Heaven?**

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Principles of the kingdom Financial Priorities

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- **Matthew 6:24** - "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.
- **Matthew 19:23-24** - Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."
- **Far broader than giving**
- **We can serve God with mammon but not God and mammon**
- **What is the principal reason for our decisions? (especially the major ones) – cost, return or that it is the Father's will?**
- **In a kingdom, the King owns everything**



Principles of the kingdom Focus

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- **Matthew 6:22-23**
- ²²"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great *is* that darkness!
- "eye is good" is Greek "haplous" - *folded together, single*
- **What are we focussing on?**
- **Through what lens are we viewing the world?**
- **Is it through kingdom eyes?**



Principles of the kingdom Thinking

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- **Matthew 6:25,31-34**

- ²⁵“Therefore I say to you, do not worry 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?... ³¹“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.
- **What is driving your thought life?**
- **What haven’t we handed over to the Lord? (= what we are worrying about)**



Principles of the kingdom Self-reflection

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- **Matthew 7:1-5**

- ¹“Judge not, that you be not judged. ²For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. ³And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank *is* in your own eye? ⁵Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.
- **Whose perception are you critiquing?**
- **Criticising others is a way of deflecting self – reflection. What are you judging others in? (Who is making you frustrated or angry?)**



Principles of the kingdom Forgiveness

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- **Matthew 18:21-35** - Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."



Sin is merely a departure from the kingdom

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- Jesus helped people to see that their departure from the kingdom starts from the thought (e.g. anger) behind the action (e.g. murder)
- .If you want to reap the benefits of the kingdom, then you need to be able to identify when you are starting to lose them.
- **Matthew 5:29-30**- If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.
- "sin" here is not "harmartia" but better translated "stumble"
- skandalizoô - "scandalize"; to *entrap*, that is, *trip* up (figuratively *stumble* or *entice* to sin, apostasy or displeasure):—(make to) offend.
- Jesus doesn't mention the usual word "harmartia" here which means "to miss the mark"
- This is not a code for people in general, but for life in the kingdom



**Sin is a
departure from
the kingdom
and begins
earlier than
actions
Matt 5:21-44**

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- ²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘*You shall not murder*, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment.
- ²⁷“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘*You shall not commit adultery*.’²⁸But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
 - *Infidelity does not cure lust, it fuels it*
- ³³“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ ³⁴But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne;
 - *Truthful people do not need oaths*
- ³⁸“You have heard that it was said, ‘*An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth*.’³⁹But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. ⁴⁰If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have *your* cloak also.
- ⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘*You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy*.’ ⁴⁴But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,



**Blessing from
these attitudes
Matthew 5**

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- The kingdom of heaven - **Matthew 5:3,12**
- Comfort - **Matthew 5:4**
- Inheriting the earth - **Matthew 5:5**
- Being filled with righteousness - **Matthew 5:6**
- Obtaining mercy - **Matthew 5:7**
- Seeing God - **Matthew 5:8**
- Being called children of God - **Matthew 5:9**
- A great reward in heaven - **Matthew 5: 10-12**



The beatitudes are the reality of cause and effect in the kingdom

- Laws, principles and attitudes that bring blessing
- It is not idealism but reality
- Do the opposite and you will receive the opposite

- What attitude for entering the kingdom is most important to you at the moment?
- What do you need to do to build that attitude?

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Bookmarks from these attitudes in Matthew 5

Verse 3 - "Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Verse 10 – "Blessed *are* those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

The kingdom of heaven belongs to those who are hungry enough to receive it and hungry enough to endure suffering to keep receiving it

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