

I. THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: THE DNA OF GOD’S KINGDOM

- A. The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 is the “DNA of God’s Kingdom.” We measure our ministry impact by how much people seek to walk out the Sermon on the Mount values (not by the size of our ministry). These values are to be the themes that we are to emphasize most in our ministries.
- B. If we want an amazing walk with God, we must ask for His grace to live and walk out the Sermon on the Mount. This life attracts God to you and I more than anything we could do for Him in the arena of ministry. This is true power resting on your frame.
- C. The foundational call in the Sermon on the Mount is to live out the 8 beatitudes (*Mt. 5:3-12*) as we pursue 100-fold obedience (*Mt. 5:48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect*). The beatitudes are like 8 beautiful flowers in the “garden in our heart” that God wants to fully blossom. They define love, godliness, and spiritual maturity that pleases God. They describe the lifestyle that is the core reality of God’s Kingdom.
- D. These 8 flowers need to be carefully and continually cultivated as we “weed our garden” by resisting the 6 negative influences (toxins/poisons) related to our natural lusts (*Mt. 5:21-48*) and as we “water our garden” by pursuing the 5 positive nutrients (prayer, fasting, giving, serving, and blessing enemies, *Mt. 6:1-18*) that position us to receive a greater impartation of grace.
- E. Jesus gave six practical areas in which we must wage war against lust (*1 Pet. 2:11*): *anger* (spirit of murder, *Mt. 5:21-26*), *adultery* (spirit of immorality, *Mt. 5:27-30*), *disregarding the marriage covenant* (spirit of treachery, *Mal. 2:13-17* that breaks covenant for selfish pursuits, *Mt. 5:31-32*), *false commitments* (spirit of manipulation that seeks to promote ourselves, *Mt. 5:33-37*), *demanding justice* (spirit of pride or bitterness that insists on our personal rights, *Mt. 5:38-41*) and *retaliation* (spirit of revenge or animosity in relationships, *Mt. 5:42-47*).
- F. Jesus describes five “grace-releasing activities” in our life that position our heart to receive more strength in the grace of God. Our heart receives more grace as we consistently *serve and give* (*Mt. 6:1-4, 19-21*), *pray* (*Mt. 6:5-13*), *bless adversaries* (forgiving, *Mt. 6:14-15; 5:44*) and *fast* (*Mt. 6:16-18*).
- G. Spiritual disciplines (prayer, fasting, meditation, etc) are invitations from God as a necessary way to posture our heart to freely receive more grace. These activities do not earn us God’s favor but give us the opportunity to express the value we have for our relationship with Jesus. God gives more to those who are hungry for relationship with Him. Our hunger for Him is an expression of our love for Him. God gives more to our heart but does not love us more when we live in spiritual disciplines.
- H. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is not rebuking His people but helping them by giving insight that leads to freedom for the heart. He did not intend to give comprehensive teaching on the path to freedom. Rather, He focused on the need to make quality decisions to resist lust and nurture our heart in grace.

II. THE COLLISION OF KINGDOMS

- A. John the Baptist introduced the idea that the system by which people relate to God is about to change. Jesus confirmed it when He echoed John's words, "Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand" *Matthew 3:2; 4:17*. He was setting up His value system of the Kingdom.
- B. Jesus' Kingdom collides with the value system of the age in which we live. Jesus came to define what really brings true happiness and how men and women would be great in God's sight.
- Matthew 5:19 Whoever breaks...the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the Kingdom...but whoever does and teaches them...shall be called great...*

III. BEATITUDES: HAPPINESS, GREATNESS, AND FREEDOM

Mt 5:3-10 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- A. We need a revelation that only in the beatitudes can we experience abundant life. Our natural mind cannot see this without the aid of the Spirit. The natural mindset thinks that happiness is best found through favorable circumstances (much money, honor, influence, and ability, etc.).
- Mt 16:17-18 Blessed are you, Simon...for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 ...On this rock I will build My church...*
- B. By revelation, we conclude that the Sermon on the Mount lifestyle is not just the best way to experience abundant life (happiness, greatness, and freedom) but it is the only way.
- C. *Being poor in spirit* (theirs is the kingdom, *Mt. 5:3*) – to acknowledge that we are in great need of help to sustain wholeheartedness (*Mt. 5:48*). This is to understand, that we are in a serious dilemma in needing a breakthrough in our heart (insight/power) and ministry in godliness.
- D. *Mourning for breakthrough* (for they shall be comforted, *Mt. 5:4*) – to be desperate enough to be "extreme" in pursuit of a progressive breakthrough in our heart (insight/power) and ministry.
- E. *Walking in meekness* (shall inherit the earth, *Mt. 5:5*) – to walk in the fasted lifestyle or to have a servant spirit in the use of our strengths (time, money, energy, reputation, authority etc.).
- F. *Hungering for righteousness* (for they shall be filled, *Mt. 5:6*) – sustained faithfulness in seeking God with wholeheartedness through the changing seasons of our life instead of being burned out by our disappointments with God or by our offense at the way people treat us.

- G. *Relating to others with mercy* (for they shall obtain mercy, **Mt. 5:7**) – having a tender spirit in how we treat others who fail spiritually as well as those who attack, resist, or disappoint us.
- H. *Being pure in heart* (they shall see God, **Mt. 5:8**) – breakthrough of purity in our thoughts (bitterness, immorality) and motives (helping people for their benefit without any personal gain). To “see God” even in a small measure causes our spirit to be bright (i.e., fascinated with God).
- I. *Becoming an anointed peacemaker* (called sons of God, **Mt. 5:9**) – anointing to bring peace (healing, restoration) to that which is out of God’s will (broken relationships, sick bodies, etc.)
- J. *Enduring persecution* (theirs is the kingdom, **Mt. 5:10-12**) – bearing the counterattack for plundering Satan’s Kingdom because we operate in power and/or stand for righteousness. We rejoice for the glory of knowing Jesus and the privilege of suffering for His name. (**Acts 5:41**).

IV. HEARTS ALIVE IN LOVE

Jn 15:9-10 “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love, If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”

- A. The dilemma of many believers is they see the Sermon on the Mount as a bar that is raised for only those who can really pull it off. The Pharisees did the list of do’s and don’t’s with an ugly heart.
Mt 23:25-26 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also”
- B. We were never meant to live the value system of the Kingdom without an encounter with God and His love. He was calling us to a living reality of intimacy with God.
- C. The issue that Jesus is addressing is the heart motivations of man. He is identifying that the motivation of love is the essential feature of the value system of the kingdom of God and not fear.
1 Jn 4:18 “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love”
- D. King David exemplified this pursuit of perfection. He made it his aim (his desire) that he would carry his heart in perfection before God.
Psalm 101:2 “I will behave wisely in a perfect way. Oh, when will You come to me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.”
- E. A wise man builds his “house” (life and ministry) on the “rock” which refers to relating to Jesus according to the Sermon on the Mount. This lifestyle is doable for every believer and is the only way to experience God’s Kingdom. To neglect this lifestyle is to neglect and miss the Kingdom.
Mt 7:24-25 “Whoever hears these sayings of Mine (Sermon on the Mount), and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock; 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall...”