

KINGDOM PRINCIPLES FOR LIFE

BY ANTONIO BALDOVINOS

Matthew 5 - 7

I. THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: CORE VALUES OF THE KINGDOM

- A. The Sermon on the Mount is the “*constitution of God’s Kingdom.*” It is the kingdom of God’s measurement to spiritual development and impact. This is how we are to measure our spiritual maturity, not the size of ministry or business, nor the number of people we influence or even how much money we have. But how do we measure the principles of the Sermon on the Mount.

“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...” (Mt. 7:24-25)

- B. 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.
- C. We are to build our house “lives” upon these principles. We are to know them and “do” them. We will be wise as we build our lives on the constitutions of God.
- D. I recommend that everyone take a season of time to study and dialogue with Holy Spirit over Matthew 5-7. Lets begin by breaking down the beatitudes.

II. BEATITUDES: ONLY WAY TO LIVE IN POWER

3 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. (Mt. 5:3-10)

- A. 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 and describe life in the Spirit (true discipleship and/or spiritual maturity). They also describe how God wants to bless us and what He wants to duplicate in the nations through ministry.
- B. 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.

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- C. 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).
- D. Jesus describes five “grace-releasing activities” in our devotional life that position our heart to receive more strength in the grace of God. Our heart receives more grace as we consistently and secretly ***serve and give*** (charitable deeds: giving service and/or money (6:1-4, 19-21), ***pray*** (6:5-13), ***bless adversaries*** (forgiving, 6:14-15; 5:44) and ***fast*** (6:16-18).
- E. Spiritual disciplines (prayer, fasting, meditation, etc) are ordained by 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. ***Analogy***: we put our cold heart before the bonfire of God’s presence. The power is in the “bonfire of God’s presence” not in the “cold flesh” positioned in front of it.
- F. ***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.
- G. ***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.
- H. ***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.).
- I. ***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.
- J. ***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.
- K. ***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).
- L. ***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.)

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M. ***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).