

# The Sermon on the Mount: Life Styles of the Rich and Famous

Job 31; Matthew 4:12-5:12

Theme of Matthew: “Behold your King is coming to you” (Zech.9:9; Mt.21:4-5)

Theme of the Sermon on the Mount: Life Styles of the Rich and Famous

## I. THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

A. The beatitudes are about the kingdom of heaven:

Matthew 5:3

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is **the kingdom of heaven**.”

Matthew 5:10

“Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is **the kingdom of heaven**.”

B. The rest of the Sermon on the Mount is about the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 5:19-20; 6:10,33).

C. The Gospel of Matthew is about the Kingdom:

1. The genealogy of Jesus was royal (Matthew 1:1-17).
2. Jesus is called the Messiah – meaning “Anointed One.”
3. Jesus was born in the royal city of Bethlehem (Matthew 2:5-6 with Micah 5:2).
4. The first words of John the Baptizer in Matthew’s Gospel were “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:2).
5. In the third and last temptation, Jesus is offered the “kingdoms of the world and their glory” (Mt.4:8).
6. Kingdom was central to the preaching of Jesus (Matthew 4:17,23).
7. Kingdom is our working theme for Matthew: “Behold your King is coming to you” (Zech.9:9; Mt.21:4-5).

D. The Kingdom is the rule and reign of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:27).

1. In Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus bound up the strong man.
2. In Matthew 4:23-24, Matthew describes the Kingdom:
3. After Christ resists Satan’s temptations, there is a tremendous surge of power over the fallen world. Wherever Jesus walked, the Kingdom in all of its power and glory was present.

*One dare not think he or she can properly interpret the Gospels without a clear understanding of the concept of the kingdom of God in the ministry of Jesus.*

(Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for all its Worth* p.131)

## STATISTIC:

1. In the New Testament, only Matthew uses “kingdom of heaven” (32x)
2. Matthew uses “kingdom of God” 4x (12:28; 19:24; 21:31,43)
3. “Kingdom of heaven” and “kingdom of God” are used interchangeably (Mt.19:23-24)
4. Matthew’s Gospel talks about “kingdom” more than any other; in fact, the term kingdom is found 56x in Matthew and the second closest to Matthew is Luke/Acts where it occurs 54x.

## **II. THE BLESSEDNESS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**

- A. One of the main differences between the kingdoms of this world and the Kingdom of God is that the glory of the world is seen with the eye and the glory of heaven is seen with the eye of faith.
1. The children of this age live based upon what they can see with their eyes.
  2. The sons of God live based on what they hear with their ears.
- B. The glory of God and God's Kingdom is far greater, more glorious, and more exciting than anything this fallen world has to offer.
- C. There is no shame in wrestling with temptation. The shame comes only if you stop struggling.

## **III. THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT CONTRASTS WITH CHRIST'S THIRD TEMPTATION.**

- A. Parallels between the kingdoms of the world and the Kingdom of God:
1. Satan takes Jesus to a very high mountain and shows Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory (Matthew 4:8). In Matthew 5:1, Jesus takes His disciples up the mountain and shows them the glory of the Kingdom of God.
  2. The kingdoms of the world are possessed only in this lifetime. The kingdom of heaven is a present reality and a future reality.
  3. Satan's kingdom belongs to the proud of spirit, the forceful, the unmerciful, the unrighteous, and evildoers. The kingdom of heaven belongs to the poor in spirit, the gentle, the merciful, the righteous and those who are persecuted for the sake of Christ.
- B. The beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount is Jesus Christ's depiction of the lifestyles of the rich and the famous. Not the rich and famous of this world, but of the kingdom of heaven.

## **QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:**

*Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer. Pray that God would give you eyes to see the glory of His Kingdom and that you would seek it first.*

*What was the title of this morning's sermon and why?*

*How is the Kingdom of God contrasted with the kingdoms of this world? How does the Sermon on the Mount contrast with the third temptation of Jesus?*

*Why isn't wrestling with temptation something to be ashamed about?*