

# Kingdom Qualities

## Matt 5:1-16

### Introduction

#### 1. Introduce Series

##### a. Excited & Intimidated

- i. **Starting a sermon series**—Hello everyone it's great to be with you all this evening! Tonight, I would like to introduce a series of sermons about a sermon. And not just any sermon, but the greatest sermon to ever be preached. This sermon is so great that people know it just by saying "THE SERMON on the mount"
- ii. **Never done a sermon series**—I'm really excited because this is the first lesson series I will give, and what better to talk about than the words of Jesus? It is intimidating though because Matthew 5-7 are some of the hardest sections of the bible to live out.
- iii. **Will be beneficial**—So I think this series will be really helpful to me as I prepare each month, hopefully it will be beneficial to you, and ultimately it will be good for all of us to delve into the lessons of Christ the Savior.

##### b. The Words of Jesus

- i. **Practical Teachings**— Matthew's gospel has 5 sections of the recorded teachings of Jesus, and this is the 1<sup>st</sup> section.  
Think about that, these are the first teachings of Jesus in the gospels that show us His way.  
Remember as we study these words of Jesus that they will help us evaluate ourselves, learn how to interact with others more effectively, and understand God.
- ii. **Apply to Theme of Eternity**—If we understand God then we will understand how to live with Him in eternity right?  
That's our whole theme for this year. Asking the question "is eternity in your heart?" I'd like to begin studying the sermon by looking at the end. Jesus says in **Matt 7:13-14--** **(SLIDE)** "13 **Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.**  
We are trying to enter by that narrow gate.  
That's how Jesus ends, so the logical conclusion is that everything before that is how we can do that!  
When we understand that these chapters have eternal implications it becomes a bigger deal and should cause us to think about whether we're on track to enter through the narrow gate or are headed for the wide gate.  
The things we will be talking about today are narrow gate things!  
So, let's get into it.
- iii. **Jesus' Fame**—We won't read any of it but just to set the scene, at the end of chapter 4 Jesus has been preaching about the coming of the kingdom and He's healing sick people all along the way.  
Those things cause Jesus to become famous which sets up the backdrop to chapter 5 beginning His lesson.

### Body

#### 1. He Opened His Mouth and Taught them

##### a. The Text:

**Matt 5:1-2 says, "1 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,"**

## b. Imagine the Scene

- i. **Great Crowds**— “Seeing the crowds,” It’s impossible to give a specific estimate for how many people heard Jesus that day because no number was given, but we know that thousands of people followed Jesus on multiple occasions so that’s not out of the question.

Why are they here? What could bring this many people to Him?

Think about the larger crowds that you have been a part of in your life.

For me the largest crowd I have been a part of was a soccer game down in Nashville just shy of 60,000 people.

That was a great crowd, but this crowd was greater.

Maybe not in number but in purpose.

They were there to hear the words of Jesus.

And we think about how exciting that would be to see the savior and hear words from Him and we understand why they were there.

- ii. **The Mountain**— **(SLIDE)** The mountain that Jesus sits upon is pretty well narrowed down to a cluster of hillsides on the northern side of the sea of Galilee, and today the place they believed He preached is actually called the “Mount of the Beatitudes” Imagine all those people gathering on that hillside! It’s an incredibly beautiful place. If God wills my family and I will be able to take a trip to Israel in April and this is one of the places on the itinerary, truly one of the places I’m most excited to see because of these chapters.
- iii. **He Opened His Mouth and Taught them**-- We can picture Jesus sitting down in the grass or maybe on a stone and giving them this sermon. And what does He do? He opened His mouth and taught them. That’s the thing about serving a living God is that He can actually communicate! This is a comforting verse by itself because if God wanted to He could have just destroyed us all long ago, but here, and the entire time He was on the earth Jesus used His time and energy to teach and serve. It’s important to point out that when Jesus opened His mouth He was being productive. Many times when we open our mouths we don’t help anything but Jesus did. We should follow His example in that.
- iv. **His Disciples Came to Him**— When Jesus goes to the mountain His disciples come as well, it is important to note that the text says that His followers are the ones He teaches these things. That is a small point but as disciples of Jesus today we must be the ones most attentive to what is said in these chapters! It applies to us certainly.

## 2. The Blessed

- a. **The Text: (SLIDE)**

**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 satisfied.**

**7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive 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.**

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. “

**b. Technical Stuff**

**i. Definition**—The word “Beatitude” means “supreme blessedness,” so those who Jesus mentions here are the best of the blessed.

Another helpful way to think of the word is to split it into two.

The Be Attitudes, be this way!

Jesus is laying out who is supremely blessed in the Kingdom.

I mean, He came here to bless, not to curse! He wants us to show these attitudes so that he can bestow the beatitudes.

If you have these traits, then you can partake in the blessings of God.

**ii. Build on each other**—An aspect to the beatitudes that I didn’t really notice before studying for this lesson is that they all seem to build upon each other. And you could do a whole series where you cover each one of these in depth but for the purpose of this lesson we want to look at them and then apply them to the big picture of this text.

1. **Poor in Spirit**--(SLIDE) The poor in spirit recognize that they are lost without God. This person will have no pride in anything they accomplish because of their spiritual poverty.
2. **Those who Mourn**--(SLIDE) An adequate reaction to seeing you are spiritually poor is to mourn. Mourn because of what you’ve done to God, mourn because of your sins, mourn because of what Jesus had to do to free us from those sins.
3. **Meekness**--(SLIDE) Meekness is the next step on this journey where you have internally seen your spiritual poverty and you mourn your state and then it shows in your life. Meekness is being under control in your interactions with others. When you normally would react to a situation with anger or bitterness you instead show meekness. It has been described before as “stewardship of power”
4. **Righteousness**-- (SLIDE) What is desire of the one who has poverty of spirit, mourning for sin, and meekness is righteousness. And you desire righteousness like you desire food or water. This passion for what’s right is like a stitch in your side, an uncomfortable longing for righteousness in a sinful world. You can start to see what Jesus requires from His disciples is exactly what he himself practiced!
5. **The Merciful**-- (SLIDE) Building upon this more the person who is merciful will understand what it’s like to be these things (Poor in Spirit, mournful) and they will show mercy to those people themselves.
6. **The Pure in Heart**-- (SLIDE) It keeps going, the pure in heart will show that desire for mercy and righteousness and it will be internalized into purity of heart. And what this is really getting at is a wholeness of heart! The heart is complete in its service to God.
7. **Peacemaker**-- (SLIDE) With purity of heart you no longer just enjoy peace when it comes but you’re actively trying to make peace when you can.
8. **Endure Persecution**-- (SLIDE) How you handle persecution shows how well you do at all the rest of these things. In times of peace you might practice these qualities well but in persecution that is the true test.  
We might think “why is a peacemaker or someone who’s merciful going to be persecuted??”

That’s a hard question to answer but I would say that whenever someone does the will of Jesus there is going to be push back and persecution. We should expect it, but how we react to that persecution is the key here. If you endure then you will receive the Kingdom.

- iii. Begins and ends with the Kingdom—(SLIDE)** It's been called the heavenly octave (Like musical octave) because there are 8 components, and it begins and ends with the same note.

When looking at this list you might initially compare the beatitudes, and you would notice that in verse 3 and in verse 10 at the beginning and the end it is said of those mentioned that "theirs is the kingdom of heaven"

We're going to talk about the other blessings some more in a little bit but just initially let's think about this Kingdom.

This phrase, "Kingdom of heaven" is in Matthew 32 times. So, it's heavily emphasized in the gospel.

We already know that Jesus has been preaching the news about the Kingdom in the region of Galilee and He continues work that here.

So, who makes up this kingdom?

The answer is unconventional by our standards.

**c. Upside Down Kingdom**

- i. Different**—When we think of a kingdom what do we think of? I think we might picture medieval times.

When I was little, I used to go outside pretend that I was a knight that lived in some amazing castle in the middle of an amazing kingdom.

And as that knight you have to be strong, brave, and kind.

But I wouldn't have picked the traits that Jesus mentions here in the beatitudes!

Hungering and thirsting for righteousness? I could see that for someone who wants to be strong in the kingdom.

Pure in heart? Same thing I think we would think that's important.

But a mourner? Someone who's a peacemaker? Someone merciful?

We would think the opposite, someone who never shows weakness.

That's what the world says mercy is right? Weak.

That person is supremely blessed? Culture laughs at the idea that someone with these traits could be blessed.

And that holds true, doesn't it? Politically, or in our jobs, even in our homes the world would say you won't get very far.

There is no way that you can have any kind of blessing if you display these qualities.

But Jesus wasn't going by our standards, He had His own.

It's upside-down from anything that we would ever imagine, but it makes sense!

So, what is Jesus going for by His standards?

Jesus is talking about a type of person.

- ii. A Type of Person**—The person that is meek, merciful, or poor in spirit or has any of these qualities would be pitiful in the world's eyes but in the eyes of God this person is fit for the kingdom!

Do these qualities come naturally, or do they take work?

We would think about a question like that and see that we might come by one or two of those naturally, but the rest take work!

You might naturally be really good at being a peacemaker or you stand tall in the face of persecution but being pure in heart takes hard work and a lot of self-control!

This week we should think practically about situations we'd encounter in our day to day where we might naturally respond poorly and think about how we can apply these traits to our lives, and be the

- iii. The World's Reaction**—What's the world's reaction to this type of person? Persecution. Someone who shows the beatitudes in their life will encounter persecution. Jesus says again in verses 10 and 11, (SLIDE)

**11 “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Jesus says when you’re persecuted! He doesn’t say if. The world treats those who spread the word of God with all kinds of poor treatment. So, is it worth it to work on ourselves and endure hardship? Absolutely.**

**d. The Rewards of the Blessed--(SLIDE)**

- i. **Worth it**—Every single choice you make for the Kingdom will eventually bring reward.  
**Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**  
**They shall be comforted.** —Outside of Jesus, overwhelmed by the reality of sin you will look for comfort in things that will ultimately be gone, they won’t comfort. If it’s friends then they will fail you, family will pass on, fun only lasts so long.  
**They shall inherit the earth.**  
**They shall be satisfied.** —If you hunger and thirst for anything other than justice and righteousness then you will never be satisfied.  
**They shall receive mercy.**  
**They shall see God.** —What better reward for someone who has kept their heart completely for God then to see Him face to face? I can’t think of a better one.  
**They shall be called sons of God.**  
**Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**  
Aren’t these amazing?  
These make every sacrifice or decision we make for Jesus worth it.  
We can endure all the persecution that the world could offer because God has promised to bless His faithful.  
So, we’ve looked at the blessed and what they receive so let’s look now at what God wants to do with someone who has these traits.

**3. The Blessed Are Noticed**

**a. The Text: (SLIDE)**

**13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.**

**b. Aspects of the Imagery (SLIDE)**

- i. **Salt**—(SLIDE) Think of the versatility of salt, you can use it in your food to enhance flavor, you can use it as a preservative to maintain the quality of something, in the bible salt was also used in the sacrifices that were offered up to God.  
So, it is one of the most versatile substances, but what happens if it loses its purpose? Then it is thrown out and not good for anything anymore.
- ii. **Light**—(SLIDE) Think about light for a second. I would assume most in here have probably been to mammoth cave?  
I would love to go again because it’s been a while and I’ve forgotten a lot of it, but one part that has always stuck with me is when they get everyone on the tour to be quiet and they turn off the lights.  
It’s overwhelming darkness, and your eyes seem to open wider to try to find something and they just can’t.  
So light is important, it is helpful, it is comforting.  
But what good is light if it’s hidden under a basket? No good at all.
- iii. **Talking to Disciples**—(SLIDE) Jesus is talking to His disciples here. He says you are the salt! You are the light!  
You must maintain your saltiness, and you can’t hide your light!

We could make all kinds of applications, but Jesus' will be enough for us tonight. Verse 16 **(SLIDE)** "16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Shine your light so they see your good works and give glory to the Father!

c. **Becoming Salt and Light**

i. **The Imagery Belongs Together**

ii. —**(SLIDE)** Whenever we read this passage I have always thought generally about performing good works so I can shine my light effectively.

Still, it can be hard to know what we can proactively be doing for the Lord.

But when you take the verses we just studied about with the beatitudes and apply them to this passage then it helps us to know how we can become salt and light.

iii. **The Blessed are Noticed—(SLIDE)** Those who Jesus says are blessed are the salt and the light.

So, every time that you display those kingdom qualities, (the beatitudes) you are shining your light in a dark world.

When you make peace instead of disturbing it, when you display purity of heart in tempting situations, when you suffer persecution for the sake of the gospel you are blessed, and you also are showing your good works.

These are the types of things that God wants us to be noticed for.

An aspect of salt is that it has to be close to whatever you want it to affect, we can't seclude ourselves from the world because we need to be close to be able to change it!

If you are not living these traits then you are like bad salt, or a lamp under the basket.

But a person who is actively living the beatitudes is like a city set on a hill. Shining for all to see.

iv. **Glory Given to God—(SLIDE)** The wonderful thing about properly applying the beatitudes and becoming salt and light is that you know God deserves all the glory. And that's what the text says!

We don't do it to glorify ourselves, and we don't do it to elevate west end, but people will see your good works and will glorify God.

**Conclusion**

Jesus is looking for people who will show these qualities and we need to evaluate ourselves so we can effectively serve in the Kingdom.

He wants to bless us.

Have you ever noticed that at the end of the beatitudes if you show these qualities then He will hold you in the same regard as the prophets? **(SLIDE)** "12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

We look up to the prophets and Jesus is saying we can be like them and share in their reward!

But we must be salt and light for His glory.

We're about to sing this song

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