

“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand.”

Matthew 5:1-48

The Gospel of Matthew

Theme: The Kingdom of God has arrived, but entrance to this kingdom is not how you imagine.

Introduction

Matthew’s Gospel is good news that the long awaited promises of God are now being fulfilled in and through King Jesus. What is the King’s message? (Matt. 4:17, 23) Who is the King’s audience? (Matt. 4:18-25) Is this Jesus really the Messiah-King that we’ve been waiting for?

- I. **The Blessings of the Kingdom** (5:2-12)
- II. **The Impact of the Kingdom** (5:13-16)
 - a. **Salt of the Earth** (5:13)
 - b. **Light of the World** (5:14-16)
- III. **The Entrance into the Kingdom** (5:17-48)
 - a. **Exceptional Righteousness** - must exceed that of the religious leaders (5:17-20)
 - b. **Exposed Inability** - to love others as the Law intended (5:21-47)
 - c. **Expectation Elevated** - the standard is higher than imaginable (5:48)

Shepherding the Sheep

To the believing:

- The Sermon on the Mount is not an equation for gaining entrance into the kingdom, it’s not a recipe for ethical living within the kingdom, nor is it a metric for measuring one’s relationship with the King.
- Jesus exposes our inability to truly love others as God requires.
- Jesus ultimately provides for us the righteousness we need to meet God’s standard. Our boast is not in our righteousness, but His righteousness imputed to our account. Consider the following texts: Rom. 3:1-31; 5:18,21; 9:30-10:4; 1 Cor. 1:30-31; Titus 3:4-7

To the unbelieving:

- The Sermon on the Mount is not a moral, ethical checklist for cleaning up your life or earning favor with God.
- Jesus demonstrates that you cannot be good enough to enter the kingdom or be accepted by God on your own merit, works, or effort.
- However, Jesus does extend the invitation for you to be part of the kingdom by turning from your own righteousness and trusting in His righteousness on your behalf.

