

“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand.” (Part Two)

Matthew 6:1-7:29

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. Throughout the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus completely tears down the “paper kingdoms” of performance and perception. The King’s teaching on the kingdom of God exposes both our deep need for righteousness and complete inability to obtain it by our own efforts. By the end of Matthew 5 we find ourselves standing on the precipice of a completely unattainable standard for loving others on the horizontal. As we move into Matthew 6 and 7, the King will expose our hearts and motives even further by the means in which we evaluate our religious piety, our physical needs, and the lives of others. Ultimately, King Jesus will unmask the religious leaders as frauds and introduce people to God in an unfathomable fashion...as their *Father*.

- I. **Clash of Kingdoms** (6:1-7:12)
 - A. Evaluating the Spiritual (6:1-18)
 - B. Evaluating the Physical (6:19-34 and 7:7-11)
 - C. Evaluating the Relational (7:1-6)

Summary Statement (7:12)

- II. **Choice of Kingdoms** (7:13-27)
 - A. Two Paths (7:13-14)
 - B. Two Trees (7:15-20)
 - C. Two Wills (7:21-23)
 - D. Two Foundations (7:24-27)

<i>One Choice...Two Options. One Choice...Two Outcomes.</i>		
TWO PATHS 7:13-14	Narrow = way is hard, difficult/leads to life/few travel this path	Wide = way is easy/leads to destruction/many travel this path
TWO TREES 7:15-20	Healthy = bears good fruit/cannot bear bad fruit	Diseased = bears bad fruit/cannot bear good fruit/will be cut down and thrown into fire
TWO WILLS 7:21-23	Father’s = those who know the Son/the works of God is to believe in the Son (cf. Jn. 6:29, 40)	Self = knowledge about the King, but they don’t know the King/think they are serving the King, but really serve self/ultimately rejected and declared workers of lawlessness
TWO FOUNDATIONS 7:24-27	Rock = hearing the message of the King and responding in faith that works/withstands the storms because its foundation is secure	Sand = hearing the message of the King and rejects it/cannot withstand the storms because its foundation is not secure/its fall will be catastrophic

Crowd's Response (7:28-29)

As the message concludes, the crowd is stunned by what they just experienced. Their minds overwhelmed by what they just heard. How do you process this gospel? Their hearts pumping with raw adrenaline, unsure of how to channel such emotion. Words escape them. As Jesus “drops the mic,” the crowd drops their jaws in amazement and awe at the authority by which he spoke. “This is so unlike our religious leaders!”

Connecting the Dots . . .

- As King, Jesus fulfills all the prophecies, pictures, and promises of the Old Covenant.
- As King, Jesus exposes our need for an exceptional righteousness.
- As King, Jesus elevates the standard to its proper place – *perfection*.
- As King, Jesus exposes our inability to love God or others as the Law demands.
- As King, Jesus eliminates all other options for entering the kingdom.
- As King, Jesus extends the invitation of the kingdom to mankind.
- As King, Jesus exercises all authority to make such claims as seen in the Sermon on the Mount.
- As King, Jesus encourages us to experience a relationship with God as our Father.

Shepherding the Sheep

To the Believing:

- The Sermon on the Mount is not a means of meriting, measuring, or maintaining a right relationship with God. Rather, it very clearly shows us just how impossible that would be. Therefore, if our response is to double-down on our performance rather than look to the righteousness of Jesus alone, then we've seriously missed the Sermon on the Mount.
- In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus clearly encourages us to enjoy the relational benefits of God as our Father. Learn to live in the loving presence of our Father.

To the Unbelieving:

- The Sermon on the Mount is good news that there is absolutely no way for you to earn the kingdom of heaven or enjoy a relationship with God based on your works, efforts, merits, or righteousness.
- “Why is this good news?” You can stop wasting your time, energy, efforts, and emotions wondering if you're good enough or somehow “making the cut.”
- “What should I do?” Repent of trusting in your performance and trust in Jesus' performance on your behalf. Jesus lived the sinless, perfect life you could never live. Then, He died in your place to satisfy the Father's righteous wrath against sin. Jesus invites you to believe that He is enough.