

KINGDOM LIFE

Inductive Study - Matthew 5:3-12

(STUDY 2 of 4)

Who are the blessed ones? Join us as we study Jesus's answer to that question and learn more about the character and conduct of those who belong to His Kingdom.

If you missed **study one**, we would encourage you to begin there as each study continues and builds from the one before.

READ Matthew 5:5 (Scripture passages at the back of the study):

5:5 – What shall the meek inherit?

INHERITANCE

READ Revelation 21:1-4:

- circle every reference to *new*.
- put a triangle beside every reference to *God* (including pronouns and synonyms).

21:1 – What inheritance will the meek one day receive?

21:2 – On that day – what will New Jerusalem look like?

21:3 – What will be the best thing about our future life together in God's Kingdom?

21:4 – What will life be like at home with God?

MEEKNESS / GENTLENESS

What is meekness / gentleness?

READ Psalm 37:5-8:

- circle every *command* given.

37:5,7,8 – How do we respond in *meekness* to unjust suffering – list the commands?

37:5b-6 – What will the LORD do?

READ Psalm 37:9-11:

- circle every reference to the *meek / those who wait for the LORD* (including pronouns).
- underline every reference to *evildoers / wicked* (including pronouns).

37:9-11 – What is the destiny of the wicked? the meek?

READ 1 Peter 2:21-25:

2:21 – Whose example are we to follow in responding to unjust suffering?

2:21,25 – Who did Christ suffer for?

2:22-23 – How was Jesus the perfect example of responding in meekness to unjust suffering?

2:24 – Why did Christ suffer for us - bearing our sins in His body on the cross?

READ Galatians 5:16-17,19-26,6:1-2:

- circle every reference to the *Spirit*.
- underline every reference to the *flesh (including pronouns)*.

5:16 – What will happen as we walk by the Spirit?

5:17 – Why is it essential for us to walk by the Spirit?

5:19-21a – What are things like *sensuality, strife, and fits of anger*?

5:21b – What warning are we given about those who *habitually* do such things (see also 1 John 3:4-10)?

5:22-23 – In contrast – what fruit does the Spirit produce in those who belong to Christ?

5:24 – What is true of those who belong to Christ?

5:25-26 – What does it look like to walk by the Spirit?

6:1a – How are the spiritual (those walking by the Spirit) to restore a fellow-believer caught in a transgression?

How might a conceited believer respond to a brother or sister caught in sin?

6:1b – What are we to do as we restore? Why?

6:2 – What are we doing as we restore a fellow-believer?

Why might we avoid confronting a brother or sister about their sin?

READ James 1:17-22:

- put a triangle beside every reference to the *Father* (including pronouns).
- put a box around every reference to the *word of truth / word*.

1:17 – Who is faithful to give us every good thing we need?

1:18 – How did the Father bring us forth as firstfruits – new creations set apart for Him, ready to do His will?

1:19a – What must we then be *quick to hear*?

1:19b – How are we to exercise meekness in our interactions with others?

1:20 – Why are we to respond in this way?

1:21 – What are we to do instead?

1:22 – What is the proof we have received God’s Word in meekness?

THINKING IT THROUGH

- What is our hope as believers that sustains us in the trials of life and our sufferings for Christ? Take time to meditate upon the hope we have in Christ.
- Who angers or frustrates you? Who do you need to cultivate gentleness towards?
- When might we respond angrily to God’s Word? How should we receive it?

RIGHTEOUSNESS

READ Matthew 5:6:

5:6 – Who shall be satisfied?

What kind of seeking do the words *hunger* and *thirst* describe?

READ Matthew 6:33:

6:33 - What are we to seek first?

READ Matthew 5:20:

5:20 – Who does Jesus say will enter the kingdom of heaven?

So, what is this greater righteousness? Well, Jesus goes on in Matthew 5:21-48 to give examples of the righteousness that should characterise His disciples. A righteousness that is not just external conformity to God’s Law but an obedience from the heart. A righteousness that does not justify us before God but rather proof that we have been justified, those who belong to Christ’s Kingdom. An obedience from the heart now made possible through the Spirit who dwells in us.

SEEKING: PEACE

READ Matthew 5:21-26:

- underline the phrase *You have heard that it was said.*
- put a box around the phrase *But I say to you.*

5:21-22 – What does Jesus say is also murder?

What is the root of murder?

5:22 – What eternal punishment does Jesus say someone will be liable to whose life is characterised by *hatred* and *contempt* of others?

READ 1 John 3:15:

3:15 – What is true of everyone who hates his brother?

Turn back to Matthew 5:21-26:

5:23-26 – What are we to be *quick* to do instead as those who belong to Christ's Kingdom:

v23-24 – towards a fellow-believer who has something against us?

v25-26 – someone taking us to court?

READ Romans 12:18:

12:18 – What must we seek to do?

SEEKING: PURITY

READ Matthew 5:27-30:

- underline the phrase *You have heard that it was said.*
- put a box around the phrase *But I say to you.*

5:27-28 – What does Jesus say has already been committed when someone looks at a woman with lustful intent?

5:29-30 – What does Jesus say is better?

What then should be our attitude to cutting out causes of sin in our life – not literal amputations!?

THINKING IT THROUGH

- Who do you hold anger in your heart towards? Need to forgive?
- Who have you wronged and need to seek reconciliation with?
- What causes of sin in your life do you need to be ruthless about cutting out?

REFLECTION

The kind of righteousness that Jesus says should characterise His disciples can, as we said in the previous study, seem like an impossible ideal. Yet, such kingdom living is now possible through the Spirit who dwells in us. A calling to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. A perfection not realised in this life, still mourning our sin, but a life nonetheless in which there is a holiness and love which sets us apart from the world and shines forth the glory of Christ our King.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

MATTHEW 5:5

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

REVELATION 21:1-4

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away."

PSALM 37:5-8

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.

⁶ He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.

⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices!

⁸ Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath!

PSALM 37:9-11

⁹ For the evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

¹⁰ In just a little while, the wicked will be no more;
though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there.

¹¹ But the meek shall inherit the land
and delight themselves in abundant peace.

1 PETER 2:21-25

²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

GALATIANS 5:16-17,19-26,6:1-2

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. **6** Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

JAMES 1:17-22

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. ¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

MATTHEW 5:6

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

MATTHEW 6:33

³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

MATTHEW 5:20

²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

MATTHEW 5:21-26

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgement.' ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. ²⁶ Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

1 JOHN 3:15

¹⁵ Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

ROMANS 12:18

¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

MATTHEW 5:27-30

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.