

# KINGDOM LIFE

## Inductive Study - Matthew 5:3-12

### (STUDY 3 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 the previous studies, we would encourage you to work through each study in turn as each one builds on the one before.

**READ** Matthew 5:7 (Scripture passages at the back of the study):

5:7 – Who shall receive mercy?

**Does this mean we earn God's mercy?** Not at all! Rather, as we shall see, it is those who have received God's mercy who in turn are merciful. Not perfectly in this life but truly so. Those blessed by the Father who will one day inherit the Kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world. However, let's begin by reminding ourselves of God's amazing mercy to us in Christ.

## MERCIFUL FATHER

**READ** Ephesians 2:1-10:

- circle every reference to the letter's recipients – *you / we / our / us / your* (including synonyms).
- put a triangle beside every reference to *God* (including pronouns).

2:1-3 – What was our *spiritual condition* and *way of life* before God saved us?

2:4,7 – Why did God save us?

2:5-6 – How did God save us?

**READ** Ephesians 1:3:

1:3 – How has the Father blessed us in Christ?

## Turn back to Ephesians 2:1-10.

2:8 – How are we saved?

2:9 – What are we not saved by? What does that then exclude?

2:10 – What are we created in Christ Jesus for?

**READ** Colossians 2:13-14:

2:13 – What was our *spiritual condition*? How was God merciful to us?

2:14a – How did God forgive us?

2:14b – How did He set it aside?

**READ** 1 Peter 2:10:

2:10 – What are we now? What have we received?

## **MERCIFUL CHILDREN**

**READ** Matthew 6:12,14-15:

- circle every reference to *forgive / forgiven*.

6:12 – What does Jesus teach us to ask the Father?

6:14 – Who will the Father forgive?

6:15 – Who will the Father not forgive?

**Does this mean that we merit God's forgiveness by forgiving our debtors?** Well, let's turn now to a parable Jesus told to help us answer that very question.

**READ** Matthew 18:21-27:

- circle every reference to *forgive / forgave*.
- underline every reference to *pay / payment*.

18:21a – What does Peter want to know?

18:21b – How many times does Peter think is more than enough?

18:22 – How many times does Jesus say?

**No limit** – Jesus is not giving Peter a limit here. Rather, by saying seventy times seven, the number seven signifying completeness, Jesus is declaring that there is *no limit* to how often we forgive those who sin against us. Jesus then tells a parable to illustrate why this is the case for all who belong to His Kingdom.

18:23 – What did Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven to?

18:24-25 – What *impossible* situation was the servant in?

18:26 – What did the servant *implore* his master to do?

18:27 – How did the master show *great mercy* to his servant?

**READ** Matthew 18:28-35:

- circle every reference to *forgave* / *forgive*.
- underline every reference to *pay*.

18:28 – What does the servant do next?

18:29 – What did the fellow servant *plead* with him to do?

18:30 – How did he respond to his fellow servants' plea?

18:31-33 – How should he have responded? (v33)

18:34 – How did the master then punish him?

When would the debt be paid off?

18:35 – Likewise, what will the Father do to every one of us who do not forgive others from the heart?

Jesus's statement in v35 makes for sober reading. That unless we forgive others from the heart God will punish us eternally. However, Jesus is not speaking here about earning God's mercy by forgiving others. Rather, if we refuse to forgive others their trespasses against us then we show we never have received the Father's mercy. For it is those who have received God's mercy, cancelling our sin-debt we could never repay, who will and are able to forgive others. A divine mercy that came at great cost. The Father in His great mercy and love sending His Son to bear the punishment for our sins on the cross, enduring the Father's wrath, so that we through faith in Jesus could be reconciled to God. What mercy! What love!

**READ** Ephesians 4:30-32:

4:30 – Who are we not to *grieve*?

4:31-32 – How are we to live to *please* not *grieve* the Spirit?

### **THINKING IT THROUGH**

- Give thanks to the Father for His mercy to you in Christ.
- Has someone wronged you? How should you respond?
- Further study – this study can't cover everything about forgiveness and reconciliation, nor is it intended to do so. For further study have a look at these Scripture passages - Luke 17:1-4; Galatians 6:1-2; Ephesians 4:1-3; Matthew 18:15-20.

### **SEE GOD**

**READ** Matthew 5:8:

5:8 – Who shall see God?

**READ** 1 John 3:2-3:

3:2 – What are we now because of the Father's great love for us?

3:2 – What do we know?

How will this happen?

3:3 – What does everyone who thus hopes in him do? Why?

**READ** 2 Corinthians 3:18:

3:18a – What happens as we behold the glory of the LORD?

3:18b – Who enables us to behold the glory of the LORD in the Scriptures?

## **PURE IN HEART**

**Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place (Psalm 24v3)?** We do through Christ! Christ our Great High Priest through whom we can draw near with confidence to the throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:14-16). Citizens of heaven now empowered by the Spirit to be pure in heart and live lives of wholehearted devotion to Christ our King.

Let's look at some verses to help us understand further what it means to live this way.

**READ** Matthew 6:24:

6:24a – What does Jesus say is impossible to do? Why?

6:24b – What example of many does Jesus give of this?

**READ** James 4:1-10:

- circle every reference to the letter's *recipients* (including pronouns and synonyms).
- underline every *command* given.

4:1 – What causes quarrels and fights among God's people?

4:2ab – What do we do when we don't get what we *desire* or *covet*?

4:2c – Why do we not have?

4:3 – Why do we not receive what we ask for?

4:4a – How does James describe those whose heart is divided between allegiance to God and the world?

4:4bc – What does anyone who wishes to be friend of the world make themselves?

4:5 – What does God jealously yearn for? What does the Spirit who dwells in us seek to cultivate in our heart?

4:6a – Despite our times of unfaithfulness to Him – what does God give?

4:6b – Who does God give grace to?

4:7-9 – How do we humble ourselves before the LORD:

4:7 – What is the first thing we must do?

4:8a – What will God do as we draw near to Him?

How do we draw near to God?

4:8b – What are we to *cleanse / purify*?

What does *hands* as a metaphor represent?

4:9 – What sinful *attitudes* of heart or *actions* in your life do you need to lament and repent of?

4:10 – What will God do as we humble ourselves before Him?

### **THINKING IT THROUGH**

- What people or things (idols) can we rely upon at times in place of God for *security, significance, or satisfaction*?
- What idols in your heart are drawing you away from wholehearted devotion to the LORD?

### **REFLECTION**

And so, Jesus continues to fill out our understanding of the character and conduct of those who belong to Him. And once again we see that the way up in His Kingdom is the way down. That only through humble dependence upon the LORD do we know His grace to live such a life. Grace to be merciful. Grace to be meek. Grace to be pure in heart. Grace to mourn our sin. Grace to hunger and thirst for righteousness and continue to follow Christ when called, as we shall see in the next study, to suffer for His name.

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

### **MATTHEW 5:7**

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

### **EPHESIANS 2:1-10**

**2** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

### **EPHESIANS 1:3**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

### **COLOSSIANS 2:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him [Christ], having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> by cancelling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

### **1 PETER 2:10**

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

### **MATTHEW 6:12,14-15**

<sup>12</sup> and forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, <sup>15</sup> but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

## **MATTHEW 18:21-27**

*Talent - a monetary unit worth about twenty years' wages for a labourer*

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven." <sup>23</sup> "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup> And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup> So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

## **MATTHEW 18:28-35**

*Denarius - a day's wage for a labourer.*

*Jailers - a word referring to torturers.*

<sup>28</sup> But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup> So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup> He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup> Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup> And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup> So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

## **EPHESIANS 4:30-32**

<sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

## **MATTHEW 5:8**

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

## **1 JOHN 3:2-3**

<sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup> And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.



## **2 CORINTHIANS 3:18**

<sup>18</sup> And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

## **MATTHEW 6:24'**

<sup>24</sup> "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

## **JAMES 4:1-10**

<sup>4</sup> What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? <sup>2</sup> You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. <sup>4</sup> You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup> Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? <sup>6</sup> But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." <sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.