

(re)union

Learning, Living, and Giving the Good News of Jesus

Week 5: Kingdom Manifesto

- SCRIPTURE TEXT: **Matthew 5:1-16**
- MEMORY VERSE: **Matthew 5:16**
- (RE)UNION CHAPTER: 9 (Next week chapter 10)
- HOMEWORK: SOTM daily + Study Buddy Chat + Sign up at Bruxy.com.

APPETIZER: What is the “KINGDOM”?

JESUS IS GOD WITH US, COME TO



SHOW US
GOD'S LOVE,



SAVE US
FROM SIN,



SET UP GOD'S
KINGDOM, AND



SHUT DOWN
RELIGION,

SO WE CAN SHARE IN GOD'S LIFE.

Our purpose = to experience and advance the kingdom of Christ.

Q: What is the Kingdom of God/Heaven/Christ?

- A1: A “Kingdom” is a realm in which one will and one way holds sway.
- A2: The kingdom of Christ is our way of living in sync/harmony with the will of God.

“Kingdom” defines our:

- LOYALTY (to our King & Country): Jesus
- LAWS (guidelines for right and wrong): Love
- LIFESTYLE (Cultural Norms): Joy, Generosity, Gentleness

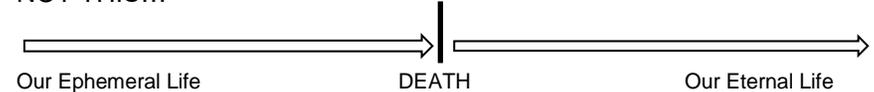
DINE IN: God's Blessing & Our Purpose

Matthew 5:1-16

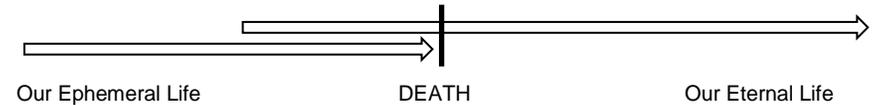
The Beatitudes...

1. Not a “to do” list, but the offer of the kingdom's availability to the unlikely.
2. Not a promise about the distant future, but the description of what is available now through Christ.
3. Every characteristic except “poor in spirit” is true of Jesus.

NOT THIS...



BUT THIS...



TAKE OUT: Pressure's Off!

Mark 4:26-29

HOME WORK:

Read and pray about some (or all) of Matthew 5-7 every day this week.

STUDY BUDDY MESSAGE SUMMARY:

- One of our greatest psychological needs is a sense of purpose or meaning in life. “What is the meaning of life?” is a question that is always spinning in the back of our minds. What do you think is your purpose for being here?
- The Good News of Jesus gives us ultimate purpose for every moment of every day of our lives: living a life of reconciled relationships, and helping others experience reconciliation in all of their relationships, with God and others.
- This is called “the kingdom of God” – living in sync with God's will and way.
- Our purpose is to be light for the world, as agents of reconciliation.
- We live as ambassadors of this kingdom to the world.
- We fight as soldiers of this kingdom against other “kingdoms” (ways of thinking and living) that are unloving and dehumanizing.
- And this “eternal” way of living can start now, when we commit to follow Jesus. Our eternal life in the kingdom of heaven can start now.
- You are invited to join this world-changing movement.

NEXT WEEK: SHUT DOWN Religion

Next week we talk about the most scandalous aspect of the good news of Jesus – the end of religion.

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Have you been tracking with the blog posts for this series at **bruxy.com**? Have they been helpful? Unhelpful? Something else? Let Bruxy know!
2. Review Sunday's message. Talk about something that stood out to you as an encouragement, challenge, disagreement, or question.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Matthew 5:1-16**.
 - a. What verse or idea stands out to you?
 - b. Luke's version of this teaching (probably preached at a different time and place) starts with "Blessed are the poor" (not "poor in spirit"). How is the gospel good news for both the poor *in spirit* and for the plain ordinary poor?
 - c. What Beatitude do you identify with most? Least? Why?
 - d. Talk about what the opposite quality of each beatitude might look like. Discuss the upside down / right side up nature of Christ's kingdom.
 - e. How would you respond to someone who wanted to use verse 16 to argue that we never have to evangelize, but just live good lives?
 - f. How have you sensed God inviting you to be salt and light in your life? And/Or in partnership with your church community?
 - g. BONUS QUESTION: What is Jesus meaning in verse 17?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Use your regular huddle questions. Also pray for your Study Buddies, and for yourselves, that you might continue grow in your understanding of and ability to communicate the gospel.

June 11/June 18, 2017 // @bruxy

Quotes

Welcome to part 5 in our series on Learning, Living, & Giving the Good News of Jesus! Today's message is about finding our purpose in life through the Kingdom of Christ.

In Matthew 5-7, Jesus preaches his famous Sermon on the Mount as a kind of Kingdom Manifesto. It begins with several blessings, known as the Beatitudes...

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Then Jesus adds...

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

~ Jesus