

Sermon on the Mount – Part 1
Renovaré Institute Series Video #5
© Dallas Willard Ministries

1. The Nature of Reality

The Kingdom of God

As you become alert to the subject of the kingdom of God, you will, as you read the Scriptures, see that it is everywhere and begin to pick up on the language used to describe it.

For example:

- In Mark 12:34 Jesus tells a certain lawyer that he is _____ from the kingdom of God. From this we know that people may be more or less close to the kingdom of God.
- In Luke 11:20: "If I by the finger of God cast out demons, then know that the kingdom of God has _____ you."
- Luke 13:28-29 & Matthew 8:11-12: "And they [people] shall come from the _____ and _____, and from north and south, and take their places and shall sit down in the kingdom of God."

The kingdom of God is from everlasting to everlasting. It does not _____. It does not _____.

Jesus did not start the kingdom, but He made it _____ beyond _____ arrangements. *Whosoever will may come.*

Like the Prodigal Son, the bath comes _____ the hug. That's the kingdom!

What is the kingdom of God? It is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17).

That means it is a kind of righteousness, a kind of peace, and a kind of joy that you cannot do without the _____ of the _____. Without the presence of the Holy Spirit, you can't do it. Nobody can!

Jesus says everyone will know you're my disciples because you _____ one another (John 13:35). He didn't say any other thing as a sign of the disciple except a kind of _____ of _____.

Sermon on the Mount – Part 1
Renovaré Institute Series Video #5
© Dallas Willard Ministries

When you understand that, then you're easy with John's statement:

"Beloved, let us _____ one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is _____ (1 John 4:7-8).

You don't start with the commandments. You start with _____ and the _____ come out at the other end of the pipe.

The Kingdom Stuff is the heart of everything. We need to teach it, talk it, live it, and let that be our message. That is the gospel: *The _____ is at hand.*

Where is it at hand? *Jesus!*

How Do I Enter the Kingdom?

If someone asked me what I would do if I wanted to enter the kingdom, I would tell them that I would start putting into practice the things that _____ said.

Does that mean I'm supposed to keep the law?

If you try sincerely, you'll be led into the kingdom. Just try the Ten Commandments for two days; you will be thrown upon the _____ of God. You won't be able to do it except _____ with God.

- The law is our teacher, our school master. It takes you to Christ.
- The law does not give us life. Life is not in the law, but it can drive us to what *does* give us life. It should bring us, through knowledge, to Christ, and then He is the _____.

Your kingdom is what you have say over. It is essential to the person that they have a kingdom.

You will find that children and young people pick up on the kingdom immediately because they are conscious of what they have say over.

We can approach people by asking them how they are _____ with their kingdom.

Sermon on the Mount – Part 1
Renovaré Institute Series Video #5
© Dallas Willard Ministries

Jesus is a great teacher.

He gave us a summary of many of his great teachings in the Sermon on the Mount.

THINGS GREAT TEACHERS MUST TEACH

- I. The nature of reality?
- II. Who is well off?
 - A. Blessedness
 - B. The Good Life
- III. Who is a “really good” person?
- IV. How to become a really good person?

These are the questions everyone has to answer.

You get out of bed in the morning and you have to answer these questions.

You go through the day answering the questions.

Your _____ show what you're assuming to be the answer to all of those questions.

Jesus answers each of these in a manner far superior to anyone else---Plato, Buddha, Freud.

He is the smartest one ever!

The Sermon on the Mount fits into this. This is really a sermon.

Before He gets to the Sermon, Jesus has already said what reality is:

The nature/vision of reality - God and His kingdom. That's it!

Now Jesus is going to tell what it's like to live in the kingdom.

Sermon on the Mount – Part 1
Renovaré Institute Series Video #5
© Dallas Willard Ministries

2. Who is Well Off?

- Who is well off?
Someone who is living in the kingdom of God.
- This world, as bad as it is, is a perfectly safe place to be for anyone who is alive in the kingdom of God.

The Sermon on the Mount is coherent. It is a sermon, and it was presented by someone who was really smart and who really knew what he was doing. It is mainly focused on who is well off and who is a really good person.

The Beatitudes are *Who is well off?* and are presented as proclamations of the nature of reality.

The world has who is blessed all _____.

The world's version is given in Luke 6: 24–26.

Jesus inverts the order of blessedness. Who is blessed in the kingdom of God? The people normally _____ thought to be blessed in the world.

The first in the order of the world may very well be the _____ in the order of the kingdom.

The last in the order of the world may very well be the _____ in the kingdom.

The Beatitudes are a proclamation that when you enter the kingdom, suddenly people who were thought not to be blessed *are* blessed.

Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit...that is, "*Blessed are those who ain't got nothing going for them spiritually, because they too may have the kingdom of God.*" And having the kingdom of God is enough for them to be blessed.

When you read the Sermon, you want to look at the crowd. They came from all over; they are sick and coming to receive his ministry. They are spiritually destitute. Jesus is looking at them and saying, "_____ is the kingdom of God."

You cannot understand what Jesus teaches unless you understand how he teaches - and he does not teach primarily by giving generalizations.

Sermon on the Mount – Part 1
Renovaré Institute Series Video #5
© Dallas Willard Ministries

Jesus is actually _____ generalizations. He does that by picking cases.

Jesus is talking about the kingdom, and the Beatitudes are _____ doorways for people and getting rid of the illusions of where genuine blessedness is.

So, the Beatitudes are addressing the question, "Who is really _____?"

The Beatitudes are not a complete list of "woe-be's" or "blesseds." The important thing for a teacher is to not cram all the answers into people's heads, but to give them the idea and turn them loose.

Practice...

One of the best things we can do to begin enriching our life in the kingdom of God is to write a set of beatitudes and woe-be's. Who are the people in your world, in your congregations, in your constituency who are pursuing what they understand to be well-being and are deluded? Who are the people in your world that are regarded as not blessed by their world, but they are blessed in the kingdom of God? Take at least a half hour and go sit down in some comfortable corner and write a list of beatitudes and woe-be's.

Note: The Beatitudes are proclamations of the nature of the kingdom. The Beatitudes are bookended with "in the kingdom" and everything in between is "in the kingdom." Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy [in the kingdom]. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake [in the kingdom]. Great is their reward [in the kingdom]. So, Paul can say, 2 Corinthians 6:10, "Sorrowful, yet always rejoicing..." For the child of the kingdom, sorrow and joy are not contradictory. They come together.

Your list will include most of the ones that Jesus gave, but we need to get this in the category of real life and understand what he's doing so we can go proclaim good news to people who have been written off from the human point of view. For example, "Blessed are those with AIDS," "Blessed are those just foreclosed on," "Blessed are the jobless," ...You have truth to give them that helps them understand that the blessing of God is available to them.