

Following Jesus Matthew 5-7

Introduction

The Good News is that God has created a Kingdom and Jesus is the Head of it. We become citizens of the Kingdom by Faith in Christ. That Faith is lived out in following Jesus.

I Colossians 1:13-14, “13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

1. Jesus wants us to Follow Him so that we can be blessed.

1 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them.

He said:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5:1-12)

2. Jesus wants us to Follow Him to Bring God Glory

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 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. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16).

3. Jesus wants us to follow Him so that we know how to follow God.

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:17-20)

4. Jesus wants us to follow Him so that we won't follow the things of this world.

Check the intent of your heart, for example murder and adultery.

Murder: 21 “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder,^[a] and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister^{[b][c]} will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone

who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’^[a] is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell. Matthew 5:21-22)

Adultery: 27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’^[e] 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matthew 5:27-28)

Check your motivations even when doing good

Giving to the needy “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

2 “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (Matthew 6:1-4)

Be Kingdom Focused

Don’t Hold on to World’s Treasures

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. (Matthew 6:24)

Don’t worry

5. Jesus wants us to follow Him so that we can be with Him.

The foundations of your life will be built on Christ and not be shaken.

24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law. (Matthew 7:24-29)

Conclusion

Follow Jesus