



## Lesson 1 – Kingdom People

### Overview

There have been great sermons all throughout the history of Christianity. Powerful preachers like Spurgeon, Edwards, Chrysostom, and others have delivered timeless messages that stirred hearts and left a lasting imprint on the church. But the greatest sermon that has ever been preached in Christianity was without a doubt the first one we have recorded. It was the message that Christ gave at the beginning of his ministry, the message that we call the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus explains for us in his opening message what his followers ought to look like and how they should view the world. This is “the law” for Jesus, as many have observed. The Old Testament began with Moses giving the law on Mount Sinai, now Jesus gives his law in this sermon. As one commentator put it: “We have a new law for a new people given on a new mountain by a new Moses.”<sup>1</sup>

***What are some of the parallels between Moses and Jesus? between the resurrection and exodus?***

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<sup>1</sup> Michael Green, *The Message of Matthew: The Kingdom of Heaven*, The Bible Speaks Today, page 89.

If you pay attention closely, there are a few key words that show up repeatedly and in important places in this sermon. Today, preachers are told to start their sermon off with a “big idea” they develop and come back to in their conclusion. Jesus wasn’t using modern homiletical theory, but it is interesting to note a key word that shows up in the first beatitude (5:3), the second to last beatitude (5:10), and the ending of this sermon (7:21).

***What word shows up in all three verses? What else does Jesus have to say about this theme?***

**5:3** – \_\_\_\_\_

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**5:10** – \_\_\_\_\_

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**5:19-20** – \_\_\_\_\_

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**6:10** – \_\_\_\_\_

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**6:33** – \_\_\_\_\_

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7:21 – \_\_\_\_\_  
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***According to these verses, what should be our attitude toward the kingdom of God?***

***Read Matthew 5:2-11. What do kingdom people look like?***

The other word that shows up repeatedly and in important places is the word righteousness. Just like in the previous section, look up the following verses about righteousness and jot down a few notes about what each verse is saying about righteousness.

5:6 – \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5:10 – \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5:20 – \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6:1 – \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6:33 – \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

***How is true righteousness different from the righteousness of the Pharisees?***

***What do the kingdom and righteousness have to do with each other?***

### **Application**

***How is Jesus' kingdom different from the kingdoms of the world? How might we think like the world's kingdoms without even realizing it?***

***What is one way that thinking about life like Jesus would change your perspective today?***

***What is one way that thinking about life like Jesus would change your actions today?***