

5. The Upside-Down Kingdom – Sunday 29 June – KINGDOM SERIES 5/10

"Kingdom People in a Broken World": Matthew 5:1–12

Living as citizens of God's Kingdom through the lens of the Beatitudes

The upside-down Kingdom - that Jesus invites us into. The Beatitudes are **not a checklist** of virtues to **earn** salvation; they're a **description** of a transformed **heart and life**.

I. The Portrait of Kingdom People

1. Poor in Spirit (v.3)

Not materially poor, but those who **know their need** for God.

[] Where in your life and mine do you pretend we don't need God?

Maybe in our family life? Our work, our retirement for directions? Our finances?

[] Where in your life and mine do you pretend we don't need God?

2. Those Who Mourn (v.4)

Not just sadness, and not just over the grief of a loved one, but **mourning over sin and the brokenness** around us.

[] How did you feel last week after the two votes in the House of Commons: one, effectively now making abortion up to birth legal – a woman won't be prosecuted, though those who help her still may be, but unlikely.

[] How did you feel over the very narrow vote – way too narrow to effect massive moral change – over assisted dying?

[] When was the last time you and I mourned over sin—in your life and mine, or the world?

3. The Meek (v.5)

Meekness: 'strength under control'

[] Are we using our strength (mental, if not physical) to bless others?

4. Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness (v.6)

Righteousness: a **"Deep desire for God's will and justice"**.

[] What are you and I hungry for right now? Is it more of God and his ways in your life and mine and in his church?

5. The Merciful (v.7)

Kingdom people give what others **don't deserve**—just like God did for us.

[] Who do you need to forgive this week?

6. Pure in Heart (v.8)

Pure in heart is all about Integrity, not just ritual purity. *"Blessed are the pure in heart"*.

[] What might be clouding your heart this week?

7. Peacemakers (v.9)

Jesus said "Blessed are the peacemakers", not peace-lovers, but peace-**makers**, those who actively bring about reconciliation.

[] How do you deal with conflict? What role do you play in our family when two people are at odds?

[] Where is God calling you and I to step into conflict and to bring peace?

8. Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake (v.10–12)

[] Are we willing to suffer for following Jesus? What might that look like in your workplace or school or retirement? Might it involve risking losing one friend for inviting them to church?

2. The Reversal of the Kingdom

World Says	Jesus Says
Be proud	Be poor in spirit
Avoid sadness	Mourn
Assert yourself	Be meek
Seek comfort	Hunger for righteousness
Get revenge	Show mercy
Look out for yourself	Be pure in heart
Win at all costs	Make peace
Be popular	Be persecuted for Me

3. The Invitation and Mission

Jesus is the fulfilment of **every** Beatitude.
He was poor in spirit—He emptied Himself.
He mourned over Jerusalem.
He was meek—riding in on a donkey.
He hungered for righteousness—“My food is to do the will of My Father.”
He showed mercy to sinners.
He was pure in heart—tempted, yet without sin.
He made peace through the cross.
He was persecuted unto death.

[1] This week, choose one Beatitude to meditate on and live out intentionally.

[2] Ask the Spirit to reveal areas of pride, impurity, or bitterness—and confess them.

[3] Be a peacemaker in one relationship—reach out to someone you’ve been in conflict with.