



Empowering People to Change the World

The Core Values of Happiness

Part 1

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***God can move mountains in my life
I will build up my faith with God's Holy Word
I will come alive in the power of the Holy Spirit With Jesus, nothing
will be impossible***

- Jesus is by far the most misunderstood person who has ever lived.
- Jesus never came to start a religion called “Christianity,” but a revolution of the Kingdom of God.
- Rather He came to reestablish heaven on earth.
- All through Jesus’ teaching, the word “kingdom” appears far more often than the words you might expect to see, such as “eternal life,” “born again,” “forgiveness” or “love.”
- The “religion of Christianity” through the centuries, even today, talks about everything and anything BUT the Kingdom of God.

o People are so hungry for the real thing, for the embodiment of the Kingdom of God.

o The Kingdom of God is God’s Total Program for Total Life.

o As E. Stanley Jones said, “It is the total answer to man’s total need—in everything.”

o It is not idealism but the most profound realism!

o Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of heaven literally all the time. It was His main topic.

- Jesus was far more interested in getting heaven into people on earth than getting the people on earth into heaven.
- Jesus came to colonize the earth with Kingdom citizens.
 - o Jesus came to establish a citizenship of people who would model and live Kingdom values and Kingdom thinking.

o That is why He often started his messages on the Kingdom of heaven with “repent”—change your thinking.

o **Matthew 4:17**

¹⁷ From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

o Change your thinking to “Kingdom thinking.” That is why last week we looked at the first words out of His mouth in the book of Matthew being “Repent,” change your thinking from an earthly kingdom way of thinking to a heavenly way of thinking.

o He is saying the new way of thinking—Kingdom thinking is “near at hand” in other words, “I am ushering in a new way of thinking—Kingdom thinking. I am going to show and tell what heaven looks like, acts like, sounds like. What the values of the Kingdom are!”

• We looked at the Pattern of the Kingdom—the pattern of the Person, Pattern and Power that leads to a revolution.

Matthew 4

²³ And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

Matthew 9

³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. ³⁶ But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. ³⁸ Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

Sandwiched between the DOING of the Kingdom Pattern are the values of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus is introducing “The Kingdom Manifesto” the Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5, 6, and 7

o The Soviet Union followed a “Communist Manifesto” in their revolution. In America we declared our values and policies through “The Declaration of Independence.”

o As Jesus launches out, He is declaring his “manifesto.”

o I am calling the Sermon on the Mount “**the Kingdom of God Manifesto;**” it’s a public declaration of values, policy and aims of the Kingdom coming to earth.

o It is the platform of the King.

o Considered by almost all scholars as the greatest sermon ever preached.

o The theme of the Kingdom Manifesto is **Matthew 6:33.**

³³ ***But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.***

o The Manifesto of the Kingdom is teaching us HOW to seek first the Kingdom of God in our lives.

Jesus begins the **Kingdom Manifesto** explaining the **Values** of the Kingdom.

“A Kingdom of God Revolution” is the governing influence of The King (Jesus) over His territory (earth), through His Citizens (us), who are expressing the culture and reflecting the nature of the King (heaven) into all spheres of earthly society (7 mountains).

• Culture has values. The Kingdom of God is no different. Jesus is about to share what the values of the Kingdom of God are.

- A Value is a belief or conviction of a people. It is a standard or ideal that regulates conduct or policy.
- Values also relate to one’s personal philosophy of life.
- Values determine our attitudes, behavior and view of life.
- If we want to learn how to live in the culture of the Kingdom, we must learn the values of the Kingdom.

- Jesus is articulating His values right at the beginning of His ministry.
- One Jewish scholar said of the first 12 verses of the Sermon on the Mount, what we call “the beatitudes”, he said, “The Christian religion is one attempt after another to live the opposite of what is found in the beatitudes.” What an indictment.
- But it is my growing conviction that if we could individually and corporately get a fresh revelation of this, the Kingdom Manifesto, and even start living it, God would bring a revolution of heaven on earth!
- Jesus is radical! Right here at the beginning of His teaching, He wants to establish a new way of thinking, a new way of living life. That is why He keeps speaking of “repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
- Jesus will begin the BE-ATTITUDES with the Kingdom of heaven and end with the Kingdom of heaven. (vss 3 and 10)
Matthew 5:1-12
- This is known as the “Beatitudes” or “blessed sayings,” from the Latin word *beatus* (blessed.)
- Blessed—*Makarios*, from the root “mak” indicating long in duration. The word is an adjective suggesting extremely happy, supremely blessed.
- Jesus mainly spoke in Aramaic: the word for “blessed” here would be *toowayhon* meaning “enriched, happy, fortunate, blessed, delighted.”
 - o One commentator says of *toowayhon*, “means to have the capacity to enjoy union and communion with God. The word goes much beyond “blessed.””
 - o Jesus wants all of us supremely happy! But not a temporary happiness or a fleeting happiness, but a deep long lasting happiness. The two words for this kind of happiness is JOY and PEACE.

- We might call them the “Be—attitudes” because they describe the way Kingdom citizens should “be” in character, attitude and behavior.
- Blessed! Happy! Enriched!—the 8 most important values of the Kingdom of God.

o These represent a revelation of the character and conduct of the King.

o Living the kingdom life should be blessed, happy, joyful.

o One preacher used to call them the “Happy Attitudes.”

o If we will live the Kingdom Life, we will “be” blessed, “be” happy. o This is a call to the “wholehearted life.”

8 Great Values of the Kingdom of God Matthew 5:3

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

1st Kingdom Value: “poor in spirit” Need for God; poverty of your own spirit.

• Some parts of the church have used this verse to elevate poverty, the virtue of poverty. I agree with Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “the error lies in looking for some kind of human behavior as the ground for the beatitude” rather than this being about a heart change.

- This is the keynote of the Kingdom—you are blessed if you know you need God. It all starts here. If you do not get this, forget the rest!!
- It strikes at the heart of self-sufficiency, the ego, the American Way.
- Be poor enough to receive Jesus into your life, and everything from heaven can be yours!
- Poor in your spirit leads to being rich in God, in the Holy Spirit. You cannot experience the power of the Spirit until you are poor in your own spirit. We hate this don’t we?

o We want to be in control and then complain that we do not see more of God at work in our life.

o Who is going to be in control in your life? Your spirit or the Holy Spirit?

o His ways are not our ways; His thoughts are not our thoughts. o You cannot get His ways and His thoughts until you become poor in spirit.

- We do not like this kind of humility! We exalt self, even virtues that we can manufacture. William Bennet wrote a book a few years back, “The Book of Virtues” and left out the most important one—humility.
- Jesus came to search out and find people “poor in spirit”. Those who are humble enough to receive it.
Jesus comes for the poor in spirit: **Luke 4:18-19**
***“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
19To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”***
- Poor in spirit is surrendering to God, surrendering the Relative to the Absolute.
- If you will be humble enough to know you must have God in your life, the Kingdom of heaven belongs to you:

o all the resources of heaven can be yours,
o the power to forgive can be yours,
o the power to love others who have hurt you,
o the humility to listen to others and care about them,
o the wisdom you need at your job, in your marriage,
o everything in heaven belongs to you! If you are poor enough to receive it.

Jesus embodied this Kingdom Value:

Paul in Philippians—the 1st value of the Kingdom was lived by the King, Jesus:

“³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count

others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:3-11 ESV)

Kingdom Living is based on the Character of God. Everything He asks us to do, He does. He is not a finger pointing the way, He is rather the Good Shepherd who says “Follow Me”

- Not self-love but Christ-love.
- Not self-interest but Christ-interest.
- Not my mind, but the mind of Christ.
- Not ruling over others but serving others.
- When we gaze upon Jesus, we see what the Kingdom of God is like.
- This is the keynote, universal kingdom law in everything from the baby to the scientist.

o The scientist puts himself under the laws of the kingdom and humbles himself to discover new things, new inventions, new breakthroughs in science and technology. But he or she must be humble at first—to say I do not know the answer but I will “poor in spirit.”

o It is true in marriage—the man realizing he ca not love his wife the way God tells him to in Ephesians 5 so he realizes that he needs God to give

him the strength and power to love his wife, the way Christ loved the church. The woman, the same thing, she cannot support her husband, let him lead the home in her own power. She has to submit to Christ and His power.

o And when the scientist does this, the husband does this, the wife does this, “theirs is the kingdom of heaven” they get heaven in their life!

- The first value of the Kingdom Life opens the door to everything else! The first value is surrender, realizing we need God in everything in our life...if we want to be happy.
- Do you want happiness in your life? Do you want joy? This is the first step—humble yourself, surrender to God.

You cannot have the Kingdom without the King. You will never be blessed and happy without The King ruling over your life. Surrender to the King if you want joy and happiness. Do you want the blessedness of the Kingdom of God? Make Jesus King, make Jesus Lord, make Jesus your Source...and then you get all the resources of heaven! WOW!