

Who Receives the Kingdom? Matthew 5:1-4

Why should we listen to the Sermon on the Mount? (5:1-2)

In that culture, to say that someone “opened his mouth” means that what he says has great importance.

The reason what Jesus says has great importance is because, as Matthew has shown us, He is fully God — God in the flesh.

What is the Sermon on the Mount about? (5:3)

It’s about the kingdom of heaven, which is another way of describing the kingdom of God.

Because of our sin, God removed His loving presence from this world and it fell under the power of our sin and Satan’s kingdom.

But God promised that one day He would return to earth, and re-establish His kingdom.

That promise was fulfilled in Jesus — whose life, death, and resurrection forgives our sins and breaks Satan’s power.

The Sermon on the Mount explains how we can receive God’s kingdom.

Who receives the kingdom of heaven? (5:3)

Those who recognize that they are poor in spirit — spiritually and morally bankrupt.

What should we do about our spiritual poverty? (5:4)

We should mourn. Mourning is not feeling bad because we have dishonored our image of ourselves, or dishonored our image to others. It’s feeling bad because we have dishonored God — and responding with feeling sorrow for our sin, confessing our sin, repenting of our sin.

When we mourn Jesus promises that — because of His death for our sins — we will feel comforted, feel forgiven, feel welcomed by God.

What does this mean for us?

Recognize that you are spiritually bankrupt. Mourn over your sin. And receive Jesus’ comfort.

That’s how we enter the kingdom.

That’s how we continue in the kingdom.



SERMON ON THE MOUNT
MERCY HILL CHURCH SPRING-SUMMER 2012

HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Do you agree that we should see ourselves as morally bankrupt — spiritually penniless? Why or why not?

What keeps you from seeing yourself as poor in spirit? What steps could you take to grow in this? Why is this so important?

How often do you mourn before God over your sin?

Is your mourning more because you have dishonored your image of yourself, dishonored your image to others, or dishonored God?

What could you do to nurture more mournfulness before God for your sin? When will you do this?

Think of a time when — after mourning — you felt much of God's comfort. Share that experience with others.

How is this passage going to change the way you live?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.



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