

Sermon on the Mount
Lesson #1 Part II
“The Character of Kingdom People”
Matthew 5:4-12

Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-19 *“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.”*

Introduction:

This week I have four small jars one with water, one with pop, one with Kool-Aid, milk. I ask for volunteers to come and taste each one and tell me what it is.

Afterwards, I take an empty jar and explain that as my jar I have the choice as to what fills it.

This week I take the jar that was full from last weeks lesson and empty it into a bucket for all to hear and see.

I ask if folks have worked on emptying themselves out all week so that God could fill them up.

Did you empty out any pride, bitterness, jealousy, anger, selfishness, worry? These are all things that occupy the space that God wants to have.

Here for the reader with each point of the lesson I will take a pitcher of water and fill the jar a little.

Transitional Statement:

In regard to characteristics of kingdom people the first thing that Jesus said in verse three was that we must empty ourselves. We must fully surrender our souls to the will of God, realizing that we can't save ourselves.

Today we will be looking at verses four through twelve and we will be looking at what Jesus says kingdom people are to be filled with.

I. First, Kingdom Character has an eternal perspective.

A. 4 “*Blessed are those who mourn,....*”

1. It seems there are several things to consider in this passage.
First, If these verses are parallel to Luke’s account, Luke 6:25 says:
“...Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.”
 - a. The woe is a warning for living for the pleasures of today
 - b. If we live our lives for the pleasures of today we are all together missing God’s intention.
 - 1) And will end up mourning in the fires of hell for eternity.
2. Then there is the idea that this mourning describes a heart sensitive to the condition of mankind without God
 - a. The heart that mourns, knows that some folks around him will end up in hell.
 - b. And no matter how hard we try....they will not all respond to the gospel.
 - c. Let me ask you ...have you mourned for the lost lately?
3. Then mourning may also include a heart that is saddened by the impact of sin in our own lives and the lives of others.
4. Also here may be the idea that our hearts are saddened knowing that we can’t be or even fully understand all that God wants us to be.
 - a. An acknowledgment that we constantly fall short of God’s mark in our lives.
5. And mourning heart surely must include the thought of being homesick for heaven.
 - a. Philippians 3:20 “*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;*”

B. With the promise “...*for they shall be comforted.*”

1. God doesn’t leave His people without comfort, but we must remember that we are not talking about physical things here but spiritual.
 - a. God never promises that everything will be all great and rosy in our lives.
 - b. As a matter of fact just the opposite.

2. But His comfort is there for us.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.”*

- a. You see, the fullness of God latches on to faith and hope in our darkest hour.
3. But more specifically the verb tense in this verse points us to an ultimate comfort which we will have in the heavenly realm for all eternity.

II. Then, Kingdom Character includes Gentleness

A. 5 *“Blessed are the gentle, ...”*

1. *“gentle”* is the word meek in the original language
 - a. Has to do with being mild in manner
 - 1) Being soft and tender
 - 2) It certainly includes the idea of humility
 - b. Gentleness is not quick to judgment
 - 1) It doesn't take on a harsh tone
 - 2) But gentleness understands the aim of James 1:19 that says: *“...everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;”*

-The aim is the desire for growth of righteousness in each other.
 - d. Gentleness is cool, and even headed with regard to spiritual matters.
 - e. A true, genuine care for others seems to be the emphasis here.
2. With the promise *“...for they shall inherit the earth.”*
 - a. We might ask why we would want the earth as it is to be burned up by the roar of the elements in the last day. 2 Peter 3:10
 - b. Here the inheriting of the earth points to the power of gentleness.
 - c. And when we stop and think about it a gentle heart can move some of the biggest mountains...and keep us out of the some of the biggest pits.

3. Are you noticing how these things are building on each other?
 - a. You really can't have a godly gentleness until you empty yourself and try to see things as God sees them.

III. Kingdom Character also has a passion for righteousness

A. 6 *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness..."*

1. Here the spiritual are seen:
 - a. As a people who are starving
 - b. Or even thirsty...for a right standing with God.
 - 1) They know that God is the only one that can fill their need.
 - c. They have a stirring of passion in their heart like Jeremiah's fire in his bones that he had to let out... Jer. 20:9
 - 1). It is this type of character that will cause a man to risk life and limb to obtain a right standing with God.
 - 2) It is this type of character that understands that the pleasure of God and our very own eternal life hangs in the balance.
2. With the promise *"...for they shall be satisfied."*
 - a. The worldly concept of satisfaction is completely skewed. The worldly thought is that at some magical point, when the car is paid off or you fill in the blank (_____). I will be satisfied, but most of the time when car is paid off another bill comes along.
 - b. Here Jesus is telling us that if we make God our priority that real satisfaction will be ours.
 - 1) Not some short lived fleshly thing.
 - 2) But an eternal overflowing of our cups.
 - a) In fact this satisfaction means to be gorged or overfilled.

IV. Then, Kingdom Character includes a merciful heart

A. 7 *"Blessed are the merciful.."*

1. Here I think of Jesus who from the cross looked out at a stubborn obstinate people and asked God to forgive them in spite of themselves because He cared deeply for their souls and saw potential in them.
 - a. If Jesus was bent on vindicating Himself, He would have called for the 10 legions of angles and smoked them.

- 1) But because he didn't want any to perish, but for all to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9)...
 - 2) He gave his very life in their place 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - 3) And was willing to pour forth Himself unto death for those around Him. Isa 53:12
- b. Being merciful is a key to kingdom character for sure.
- 1) Because it is only when we move away from a justice system, where each person gets what they deserve, that we can truly begin to understand the grace of God and begin to employ its power in kingdom service.
- c. Kingdom character is one that moves us away from condemnation
- 1) Knowing that we have all sinned and fallen short Romans 3:23
2. With a promise "*for they shall receive mercy...*"
- a. A heart bent of reaching out and helping others will receive the same treatment from God.
 - b. Here the giving of mercy is requisite to receiving it.

V. Then, Kingdom Character has purity of heart.

A. 8 "*Blessed are the pure in heart,...*"

1. Purity here represents a heart that is kept clean and free from the soils of this life.
 - a. Kingdom character includes the constant effort of cleaning one's life.
 - b. Not ever settling for "this is the best I can do"
 - c. But pushing on toward maturity in Christ
 - 1) Focused on God (Col 3:2)
 - 2) A heart that struggles at all cost to do what is right
 - 3) A heart that easily confesses wrongs
 - a) Open to examination and concern by brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - b) It considers every action and every thought before God.
2. With the promise "*...for they shall see God.*"
 - a. People with this mindset will be allowed to see the face of God.
 - b. In essence will be welcomed in His presence.

-Hearing the words "*enter in you good and faithful servant*"

VI. Then, Kingdom Character desires Peace

A. 9 *"Blessed are the peacemakers,..."*

1. The kingdom of God is meant to exist within the parameters of peace.
 - a. Jesus Himself being our peace
 - b. And with the spirit of God working in us....peace is always our motive and our direction.
 - c. My sister Sunday was a peacemaker.
 - 1) If anyone was mad at another, she wouldn't rest until she had brought the two of them together and worked it out in love.
2. With the promise *"...for they shall be called sons of God."*
 - a. Through peacefulness...God includes us as children.

VII. And finally, Kingdom Character is marked by Sacrifice

A. 10-12 *"Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness..."*

1. The way of God is opposite of the worlds ways.
 - a. Here kingdom character includes the willingness to die on the hill of God's will....not our own.
 - b. Willing to suffer for His namesake
 - c. Ultimately toward this end is the kingdom of heaven
2. With the promise *"...for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*
3. But here Jesus takes a further step by saying:

11 "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. 12 "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Conclusion:

If we paused and considered how our souls might resemble a jar, I would simply ask...what fills your jar?