

(15 Minutes That Challenge The Rest Of Our Lives.)
“Our perception of this sermon completely transforms as we entertain the idea of it completely transforming us!”

(Matthew 5-7) LIVING-OUT THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

“IN A NUTSHELL” IT IS ALL ABOUT H R

Our Kingdom-Walk Is Much Like Building A House.

I. We Must B _____ On The F _____. Matt. 7:24-27

A. Houses need a S _____ foundation, M _____, & U _____.

B. Righteousness Is O _____ In C _____. (Matt.5:3, Rom.3:10)

C. The Bedrock Is J _____ ’ W _____.

II. True B _____ Comes When Walking H W _____.

A. Who are those truly blessed? (5:3-11)

B. “Blessed” (Makarios) Means D _____ J _____.

C. Re-Focus On Verses 3-11.

III. Kingdom ADMITTANCE Only By “A _____ R _____.”

A. Jesus Warned Us! (5:20) (James 4:6)

B. Four Keys To Avoiding This Danger:

1. *Recognize: It's N O R* _____. (LK.18:9, Matt.5:3-6)

2. Shine H L, Not Yours. (Matt.5:16, 6:1,2,5,16, John 15:8)

“Yes, good works can show, but they are not for our show.”

“A “From Jesus” sticker on all good deeds needs no co-signature.”

3. Start With The H . (5:21-48, 5:21-22, 1 Jn.3:16, Matt. 23:25-28)

4. Obey To The Full I of His Commands.

“You have heard that it was said..., but I say to you...”

Notice Pharisaic Reductionism (5:21-22, 27-28, 31-32, 33-37, 38-39, **43-44**)

C. To enter the Kingdom, “Our Righteousness Must be A .”

IV. Acknowledge the Context of The Golden Rule. (Matt. 7:12)

A. (ESV) “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them...”

B. A Rule to Apply Throughout the W S .

C. “The Law and the Prophets” Hang On This C ! (Matt.22:37-40)

So, “treating others the way we want others to treat us is the heart of truly loving them as we should.” (Rom.13:8-10, Jam.2:8)

**D. This Is Our Primary Question As We Study Ways To Live Out This Sermon:
“How Do We Want Others To Treat Us; Then That’s How We’ll Treat Them.”**

Conclusion:

Jesus Is Our Life’s Foundation.

**To Enter The His Kingdom,
We Must Seek HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS!**

BONUS: RELATED ARTICLES by — Edwin L. Crozier

Whose is the Kingdom of Heaven?

Jesus opened the door of His Sermon on the Mount saying, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” That’s the profound statement we need to grasp before we study anything else. Before we will treat others the way we want to be treated, before we will judge and teach appropriately, before we will mourn, before we will be merciful, before we will serve the Lord so He will be seen and not us, before we will do anything else in this sermon, we have to be poor in spirit. This statement turned the understanding of Jesus’ hearers on its head. How could the poor work their way into a kingdom? These Jews were no strangers to buying citizenship. Do you remember the story of Paul’s imprisonment in **Acts 22**? Having been accosted by the Jews, the Romans grabbed Paul out of the crowd. Paul was allowed to address the crowd, but upon mentioning that the Lord sent him to the Gentiles, the Jews would no longer listen. The Roman commander decided to interrogate Paul by scourging. But Paul asked, “Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman citizen and un-condemned?” (**Acts 22:25**, ESV). When Paul told the commander he was indeed a Roman, the commander’s response was, “I bought this citizenship for a large sum” (**Acts 22:28**, ESV).

The Jews understood this. They could be part of the Roman kingdom if they were rich enough. If they could scrape together enough money, they could be Romans. But how many of them could scrape together enough for that? They were very poor. They could beg and plead, but without enough money, they would never be Romans. Jesus explained, “It is not the wealthy who enter my kingdom. Only those who are poor-in-spirit enter.” Only those who recognize they cannot pay their way into my Kingdom can enter it. Only those who realize their poverty and come to God without trying to offer something but simply to humbly beg for His mercy will enter. We cannot pay/earn our way into God’s kingdom. God is faithful to His promises to the faithful, but still yet, no matter what we have done, God never owes us anything. At our best, we are only unworthy slaves who are doing what we should have done all along (**Luke 17:10**).

Yes, we confess Christ, turn from our sins, get baptized, devote ourselves to the apostle’s teaching, to prayer, to fellowship, and to the breaking of bread because we hunger and thirst for righteousness. We know without this we will not be satisfied with righteousness. However, we still have nothing to offer God so much that He will say, You Merited My Gift, you paid me back in full for My sacrifice by all the good you did. No. We have nothing to offer. Our righteousness, apart from Christ, is filthy rags (**Isaiah 64:6**). What are we to do? The Roman kingdom would go to any who could afford it. Christ’s kingdom goes to those who know they can’t. It goes to those who quit trying to pay their way in and truly beg for God’s mercy.

The Christian Hierarchy

“At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, ‘Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’”

Matthew 18:1(ESV) What an amazing question. What kind of response do we expect from Jesus if we think ourselves to be quite low in terms of importance? “Whoever has *given up the most* in order to serve Me is the greatest among you.” Or, “Whoever has *traveled the farthest* to teach my gospel is the greatest among you.” Maybe you expected, “Whoever is the *richest and gives the most* to the church is the greatest among you.” Or perhaps, “Whoever is an *elder or a preacher* is the greatest among you.”

But that is not what Jesus said. Instead, “...calling a child to him, he put him in the midst of them and said, ‘Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven’” (**Matthew 18:2-4**, ESV).

“Wait! What? A little child? Little children can’t do anything! They can listen. They can obey. They can submit wholly to another, just as this little child did when Jesus called him to come.” Thus, the greatest in the kingdom is the one who submits wholly to Jesus like this little child. But wait. Jesus said that only those who submit like little children can even enter the kingdom of heaven. What a phenomenal thought.

Everyone who enters the kingdom as a submissive little child is greatest in the kingdom. We are all on the same footing. There is no hierarchy among Christians. Certainly there are gifts and roles. Clearly we do not all do the same things, but none of us is more important than the other. In fact, we are all needed to make this body work. **I Corinthians 12** drives this point home. Really, about the only rank in God’s kingdom is that Jesus Christ is our head (**Ephesians 1:22-23**). The highest rank that any of the rest of us will ever achieve is the rank of Christian. Of course, that is not even really a rank. Rank implies something earned. Being a Christian is not a rank. It is an offered, welcomed & appreciated gift honorable held onto. Let’s not worry so much about rank and just surrender, humbling ourselves like little children. —Edwin L. Crozier