

Small Group Questions | September 17th, 2017

Kingdom Values: 9/17: Kingdom Values (Matthew 5:1-12)

Sermon Recap: Travis introduced the upside down Kingdom in the beatitudes from Matthew 5. He said the Kingdom is both *here* and *there* and the Kingdom is both *now* and *then*. If we are to truly live out Kingdom Values, we must begin thinking like the upside down Kingdom – opposite of the world. We must move as a congregation from Haggai to Joel, from building the building to building our hearts.

Hook: *These questions can help introduce the topic.*

1. Which of the beatitudes resonated with you? Why?
2. What is an area of your life where you need to think the opposite, not as the world but the kingdom of heaven? What would the results be if you, and indeed the whole church, lived this way?

Look: *Read the sermon passage. Answer the following textual questions.*

3. Given the immediate context, what was the crowd's reaction to the beatitudes (you can look to Mt 7:28-29)?
4. Given the sinful inclinations of heart (Jeremiah 17; Matthew 15) how do you feel about your natural inclinations being the opposite of what is pleasing to God?
5. Contrast God's Kingdom with the way of the world?
6. Travis mentioned that Matthew wrote for and from the perspective of having a majority Jewish audience. What message was Jesus giving the crowd in the Sermon on the Mount about the Law and the Kingdom of God?

Took: *Applying the message to our lives.*

7. Do you have a tendency to focus on the "already" or "not yet"?
8. Verse 11-12 speak to the quality of faithfulness. A paraphrase might be "when you live faithfully to these kingdom values on earth (even in the face of persecution!), your reward will be great in heaven." The beatitudes emphasize humility. How do we work on faithfulness/humility? How do we encourage others to be faithful/humble?

Prayer/Verse: "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. – Matt 5:11-12