



"The Good Life" (The Mount Series - Ep. I)

1. It is an _____ of the Kingdom of Heaven

- The Sermon on the Mount = The kingdom of God is near and here is what it looks like

2. _____ in Nature

- Jesus says y'all a lot in this message – The use of the plural is kinda lost in English
 - You is both singular and plural

3. Matthew's gospel is very _____ in Nature

- Definitely written to a Jewish audience – Genealogy, Immense scripture references, Prophecies being fulfilled, avoidance of using God's name

4. Jesus represents _____ of Torah, Prophets, and Wisdom

- The whole Old Testament
- One commentator referred to the Sermon on the Mount as the Messianic Torah (Messiah's Law) – New Moses
- Jesus is fulfilling the prophecies
- Uses very similar language to Wisdom literature

5. _____ in Nature

- Ancient Philosophy discussed how to flourish in life – How to live the good life
- Jesus is going to present us with the Kingdom of God (New Era) and he is going to tell us how we can live a flourishing life in this Era (FYI we are living in that era right now)

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- Greek = Μακάριοι (Makarioi) - Blessed, fortunate
 - Hebrew = Ashrei - Happy, flourishing

- Jesus is not teaching characteristics so that we may be blessed by God
 - o It is a way of life – a flourishing life – A blessed life
 - o "the Beatitudes are an invitation to the way of being that will result in the [disciples'] flourishing." -Jonathan T. Pennington
 - o "Jesus is basically saying 'Life is good when living like this'." -Tim Mackie
 - o The blessed life is a present reality – Jesus says we can have a good life right now.

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Matthew 5:3-12 (NIV)

- He is talking directly to the disciples – They are the ones living a flourishing life
- Why would I be living a good life if I'm mourning – I thought Jesus was going to wipe away tears – Why would being poor in spirit lead to a flourishing life? – Being persecuted is flourishing??
 - o Bonhoeffer: "Blessed are the disciples as they deny themselves in every respect and live for Jesus's sake alone."
- This is the massive difference between Jesus's instructions for life and the self-help section at indigo
 - o Lead a flourishing life for Jesus's sake not for your own sake
 - o Be the poor in spirit because you recognize you need Jesus, be the mourner because you recognize the world is broken and the things that break Jesus's heart also break yours, be the meek because Jesus is greater than any of us, hunger and thirst for righteousness because we recognize we are not righteous without Jesus The disciples live the good life because their lives were about him

Landing

- This life that Jesus calls us to is challenging – the sermon on the mount is going to stretch you, challenge you, and call you out
 - o My call to you is to allow the challenge, allow yourself to be stretched, allow yourself to be changed because you will become more like Christ in the process
- Pray today that Jesus will speak to you through this sermon – he will stretch you and ultimately strengthen your Spirit.

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