

Immediate availability of God's Kingdom

- Call
- Cost
- Commitment

Everyone wants to be **happy**.

What is God's role in our happiness?

- He helps us get it & keep it (or He's supposed to).
- His authority & competence are limited to certain areas.
- He wants us to be happy so just follow your heart.
- He's the cosmic killjoy.
- It's just all up to us.

Here is life inside the immediately available Kingdom of Heaven ...

Matthew 5:1-3a

When He saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain, and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. ²Then He began to teach them, saying: ³"**Blessed** are the ..."

1) Not only does God (~King Jesus) want us to be happy, He has the **authority and the ability to make it a reality.**

This happiness is unlike the kind of happiness the world offers, and we often seek.

Matthew 5:3

Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for the **kingdom of heaven** is theirs.

2) God Himself is infinitely and eternally **happy.**

Exodus 3:13-14 (CSB)

Then Moses asked God, "If I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His name?' what should I tell them?"

¹⁴God replied to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM**. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: **I AM** has sent me to you."

God: self-sustaining, self-sufficient Being
= "My Being sustains My being"

John 5:26 (ESV)

For as the Father has **life in Himself**, so He has granted the Son also to have **life in Himself**.

God = completely perfect, infinitely happy, & overflowing goodness
→ Plenitude of God ...

Happiness flowing from the **immediately available Kingdom of Heaven** here now in the presence of Jesus (*physically in Matthew's Gospel but today by the Holy Spirit*) and our **commitment** to learn (*disciples*) to fully live there.

Psalm 16:11

You reveal the path of life to me; **in Your presence is abundant joy**; at Your right hand are **eternal pleasures**.

Psalm 23:1

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

The Lord is my shepherd; my life is without lack.

Contact and connection with the King/Kingdom always **starts in the mind**.

Colossians 3:1-2

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.² **Set your minds** on things above, not on earthly things.

Four Problematic Settings of the Mind:

a) **Faulty images** of God.

b) The visible & material (vs. the spiritual, the unseen)

John 4:24 (ESV)

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in **spirit and truth**.

2 Corinthians 4:18 (CSB)

... we do not **focus** on what is seen, but on what is **unseen**. For what is seen is temporary, but what is **unseen is eternal**.

c) The **self-life** (self-admiration, self-confidence, self-posturing, self-focus, self-pity, etc.).

Matthew 5:5,10-12

Blessed are the **humble** (*meek*) for they will inherit the earth ... 10 Blessed are those who are **persecuted** because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

¹¹ “You are blessed when they **insult you and persecute you and falsely say** every kind of evil against you because of Me. ¹² Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven.

Kingdom living comes at the **expense of the ego**.

d) **Worldly Pragmatism**: will it **work in the world** → What does it mean to **follow** Jesus the King??

Matthew 5:3-12

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the humble, 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 sons of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

I do not have what “it” takes ... (*poor in spirit*)

I have holy discontentment and/or godly sorrow ... (*mourn*)

I am increasingly less self-reliant, more self-forgetful and God-conscious ... (*meek*)

I long for the fullness found only in God ... (*hunger & thirst*)

I do not deserve what I have received; therefore, I treat others the way God has treated me

I am growing in single-mindedness—I just want God and His Kingdom ... (*pure in heart*)

I pursue peace with others because God made peace with me (*peacemakers*)

I more and more live righteously regardless of the cost ... In Jesus’ Kingdom, I have all I need.

1) Consider the **audience of the Sermon:**

a) Disciples: *students, apprentices, learners*

b) Crowd: *curious but not yet committed*

2) Consider our response to the Sermon:

a) **AWAKEN** us ...

b) **ALERT** us ... drawing near or drifting away