

Tonight, we kick off our series in the Sermon on the Mount...

Our entire year has been focused on being FREE...

specifically the fact that in Christ we are freed from sin and freed to live...

We have looked at

- the **basics of the gospel...**
- took a journey through **1&2 Samuel** (where we first see the idea of a King)
- At **Christmas** a short series on the arrival of the King
- we studied **Hebrews** to see how King Jesus is greater than everything...
- we've just finished up with **RedFlags**. Just identifying potential danger in the pursuit of freedom.

And now we get to hear straight from the King himself...the last official series of the year.

The final question of the year is what it looks like to be a citizen of Jesus' Kingdom.

What does it look like for us to be his citizens... What does life look like with Jesus as our King?

If this is something that is important, and it is...then why not go straight to the source....to the King.

The SOM does just that! The King Speaks....we, his people must listen....

This sermon is all about the fact that Jesus flips what the disciples/people are thinking upside down.

But let's catch up in the story of this King and what's happened in Matthew up to this point.

Jesus is miraculously born – Baptized – Tempted in the wilderness – ministry begins...

Now he is with his disciples teaching them on the side of a mountain...

MAIN: Jesus calls us and causes us to be like him to ultimately bring the Father glory.... **5:1-16**

1. FOLLOWING JESUS LEADS TO BLESSING...

Ha... we hardly ever hear this in the church, right??? Follow Jesus and you'll get a ton of blessings from God...

Weird thing is we are always saying following Jesus is going to cost you everything you have... and this is totally true... no doubt... following Jesus will cost you your life... and you know what... it may even kill you... but Jesus promises we get some stuff in return...

What Jesus says though may be a bit of a surprise... he kind of turns the idea of blessing on its head....

3-12.

BLESSED ARE THE...

- **Poor in Spirit** – crying out for God... depending on him... = The Kingdom of Heaven... You get Heaven... all that it is... you get all things in abundance and without the bad...
- **Mourning** – those who are brokenhearted over their sin! = comfort... Man... You know what we really need sometimes... to feel comforted... God gives us that...
- **Meek** – humble... lowly... = inherit the earth... The earth?? Ha... yeah... here is what God promises to do – restore all things... everything... We get to experience that... have that... it be a reality to us!
- **Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness** – wanting what God wants... desiring it = satisfied... filled... content...

Just like eating... you're starving, and you need food... God provides our greatest fulfillment...

Food... achievements... sex... love... nothing holds a flame to the satisfaction God proves...

But just as quick... all of those things done in God's way you find the greatest satisfaction...

- **Merciful** – forgiving... compassion... = mercy towards them from God!

Man... we need mercy...

- **Pure in Heart** – authentically godly... = they shall see God... literally!

- **Peace Makers** – bringing peace with you = called sons of God...

Two things... you'll look like it and act like it...

Resolving conflict... being a fire putter out instead of a fire starter... the solution not the problem...

- **Persecuted and Reviled** = heaven...

Here is the truth... we are not these things... but Jesus is and he makes us these things!

Being a citizen of heaven... identifying as a Christian... believing in Jesus won't always be fun... it won't always take you the places you want to go... impress the people you want it to... give you all your desires... **but it will be worth it...**

That's the promise... that our lives will be blessed... they will

We get a bunch of things that are infinitely great... but they will cost us everything we are...

Here what happens when we do this... we look like Jesus and we point to Jesus...

2. FOLLOWING JESUS LEADS TO BOLDNESS...

The next thing Jesus tells his disciples to do is to be is salt and light!

Not learn how to be this... THIS IS WHAT YOU ARE!

Salt... *preserves... it gives tastes...*

But get this... it *stings...* as it purifies...

It's not always the thing you want but it is what is needed!

Light... illuminates... brings clarity... it can be seen from miles away... it stands out...

These things are needed... useful...

But there is also a gut check here... some of us say that we are these things, but we aren't them!

Both of these things can be useless... (13-15)

Ultimately, here is what we want to say...

Our lives will look weird... we will look weak... we will seem as if we are nothing...

But in that we make Jesus the focus... as if he is everything...

We are to be these things in the world for all to see... not to hide it but to live it out... to proclaim it... to show it...

Following Jesus will cost us everything and will give us all we need...

So... Jesus calls us and causes us to be like him to ultimately bring the Father glory.

APPLICATION

- Believe Jesus is worth following...

- Trust Jesus when it's hard...

- Strive to stand out for Christ...

Fragrance...

QUESTIONS:

- What stood out from tonight?

- Which beatitude do you struggle with the most?

- What are practical ways we can be salt and light?

- What is one way we see Jesus being these things?

Pray for each other as a group