

**MTMM: The Beatitudes – The Availability of the Kingdom of God**  
*(Matthew 5:1-20)*

*Matt 5:1-20, “Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. 7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. 8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. 10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “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. ESV*

- **AVAILABILITY OF THE KINGDOM TO ALL THROUGH JESUS**  
*(Mt. 5:1-12,19-20; Gal 2:15-16)*

So what can we learn from this radical invitation into kingdom living?

- **The Kingdom of God adheres to a different value system than the world.** *(1 John 2:15-17; Gal 2:20-21; Col 2:6)*
  - **Key Question: How does this benefit the kingdom?**
- **The ‘least of these’ are world changers.** *(Mt. 5:13-16; 21:28-32; Mk. 10:31)*
  - **Key Question: How is my life changing the world?**
- **We must take the kingdom to the oppressed.** *(Lk. 5:31)*
  - **Key question: How do you stand for the oppressed?**

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Starter:

1. Share a time in your journey with the Lord where you have felt like a ‘spiritual zero’.

Deeper:

1. Read Matthew 4:23-25 & 5:1-12. To whom and by whom does Jesus declare access to the Kingdom of God? How is his invitation radical in the cultural context Jesus lives?
2. Read Matthew 23:1-36. The religious leaders were confident in their position of authority, yet Jesus brings to question a list of their actions. Describe in your own words what you take away about the Kingdom of God from Jesus’ discourse. What are some of the ways people today represent the ways of the Pharisees? Describe people who represent the Kingdom.
3. Read Matthew 5:13-16. What are those living for God’s Kingdom called to embody?

Application:

1. Identify areas of your life that represent the competing religious system. How will you surrender this area of your life over to the Kingdom of God (from hypocrisy to obedience)?
2. Love the outcasts. Follow through as a LIFEgroup to a life of loving the ‘spiritual zeroes’ that our religious system has written off.