

## JESUS ON LIFE IN HIS KINGDOM (MATTHEW 5:1-12)

### Video Two

Those who are helpless to change their situations are blessed, says Jesus. Because there's good news. A kingdom is coming in which they will be helped.

This leads to a second marker of Jesus' blessed people. Jesus says, you are blessed if **you start living for Jesus' kingdom now.**

During the Second World War, some people in occupied countries refused to live under Nazi rule. The Nazi regime didn't control them. They lived under a different set of values.

This is like those Jesus describes. Though they live in a world that has one operating system, they live by a different set of rules. They know who the true King is and that his kingdom is coming.

Look at the difference this makes.

These people **hunger and thirst for righteousness.** They're desperate to see Jesus' kingdom lived out in their relationships and in his world.

They are **merciful.** Being merciful carries the sense of cancelling debts. These people know that they belong to God because he has cancelled their debts. So, they act the same towards others.

They're **pure in heart.** They long for the right things in the right way.

And they're **peacemakers.** As those who know peace with God, they actively place themselves in situations of conflict, playing their part to put things right.

In all these ways and more, they show that they belong to a greater kingdom.

Inevitably, it's costly. It's not easy showing mercy when people hurt you. It's hard living with purity of heart in a world that encourages you to put yourself first. And it's difficult being a peacemaker: it's easier to fake peace than to walk into the mess of *making* peace.

And there's more.

You might imagine that living this way would win you approval from others. But Jesus is clear: living for his kingdom you'll often be misunderstood, ignored, or criticised. We can expect to be **persecuted because of righteousness.**

So why would anyone live this way?

Because, says Jesus, if you do, you are **blessed**.

When his kingdom comes, even the costliest act of allegiance will be shown to have been worthwhile.

**Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will experience everything they were longing for. Those who are merciful will be shown mercy.**

**The pure in heart will see God.**

**Peacemakers will be called children of God. God will publicly declare that they are his family. And those who are persecuted will know that theirs is the kingdom of God.** Whatever they've lost, they'll gain more in belonging to the only kingdom that matters.

Anyone who is living for Jesus' kingdom *now* is blessed, whatever it costs them.

Do you feel inspired? Or helpless? Jesus kingdom is attractive, but we're also shamed by it.

Pure in heart? Merciful? Peacemakers? So often, that's not us.

Yet remember how Jesus' sermon begins:

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

What is most central to this kingdom is that its citizens know they need help.

We'll see in this series: Jesus not only establishes his kingdom but qualifies us to enter it through his death and resurrection. We're part of this kingdom because of his performance, not ours.

And as we get to know this kind of King, we'll discover the true blessing and flourishing of walking in his ways.

And he'll help us to seek first his kingdom, whoever we are, today.