



## The Massive Matthew Review: Our LORD's Vision for Kingdom Living

June 26, 2022

Three goals for today:

1. That you would be exhorted!
2. That you would find 3-4 areas worthy of deeper review.
3. That your family would sketch out a renewed vision of Kingdom Life!

### **Holy Text: Matthew 4:23-25**

- Over the last eight weeks, we paused our series in Matthew to “encourage” one another. We looked to God’s Word in the areas of Courage, and then Courageous Womanhood, Relationships, Evangelism, Membership in the Local Church, Holiness, Love, and Manhood!
- Prior to that (with some breaks as we were led), we have been consistently studying the Gospel according to Matthew, trying to uncover and obey our LORD’s Vision for Kingdom Living.
- Indeed, our first message in Matthew was on *July 9, 2017: The Gospel of the Kingdom!*
- [Our stated Purpose: To receive Kingdom encouragement and Kingdom strength from Matthew’s Gospel...from The Sermon on the Mount \(Matthew 5-7\) up to Olivet Discourse \(through Matthew 23\).](#)
- So it’s been five years! We’ve learned so much! Before starting the final stretch, let us today enjoy a very fast (and hopefully a fun and encouraging) review of the main things we have learned.
- The goal today is to “see” our LORD’s Vision for how Kingdom subjects should live laid out before us! Buckle up!

### **Key Themes**

- This Gospel was likely written by Matthew (or Levi), one of the Twelve (Matt 9:9-13).
- The word kingdom comes from the Greek *basileia*, which means in this context, “The territory or country subject to a king; an undivided territory under the dominion of a king or monarch.
- It follows then that a Kingdom has a **King!**
- [Matthew’s mandate was to demonstrate for a mostly jewish audience the \*Messiahship and Kingship of Jesus\*. More than any other Gospel writer, Matthew expounds on the Kingdom-nature of Jesus’ ministry \(he mentions \*Kingdom\* in over 50 verses\) and emphasizes what the Kingdom of God looks like.](#)
- Our Text mentions, “The Gospel of the Kingdom.” (v.23)
- This Gospel is first and foremost that Jesus Christ is the King and the Messiah, the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world. (Jn 1:29) It is the declaration that men must repent and believe the Good News that God, in love and mercy, sent His beloved Son to suffer die in our place...that the Father placed His holy wrath upon the Son on the Cross so that those who believe would inherit eternal life.
- The Gospel of the Kingdom is fundamentally about an eternal inheritance. Indeed, Jesus’ Kingdom, at present, is not of this world (Jn 18:36)
- However, **Jesus’ Kingdom also has a “right now but not yet” quality to it.** The Kingdom is coming, **but the Kingdom is also NOW because the Church is in (but not of) the world.**
- [So the Gospel of the Kingdom saves us; but it also begins the process of sanctifying us as well. It forms us into \*Kingdom Citizens\*. \*\*How many of us really think of ourselves this way?\*\* It shifts our perspective from the earthly to the eternal \(Col 3:1-4\) It tells us how to represent the King on earth as His ambassadors \(2 Cor 5:20\) It causes us to live like](#)

“strangers and pilgrims, abstaining from fleshly lusts that war against our soul...” (1 Pet 2:11)  
But also commands us to live like soldiers, advancing against the enemy and taking ground!  
(Matt 16:13-19; 2 Tim 2:3)

- And the LORD of this great Gospel is in the business of *reaching us, teaching us, and releasing us*. Verse 23 mentions all three! One day, there will be no more sickness, diseases, and torments! (v.25) One day, by God’s grace, the full manifestation of the Kingdom will come!

### **The Sermon on the Mount**

Now very obviously, there’s no chance to adequately do justice to 15 chapters of Holy Scripture in one sermon. We preached about 200 messages on Matthew! So today let us look for the *vision* elements. Let us ask good questions. Let us consider what life would be like if we would live according to God’s Word!

**Matthew 5:1 (KJV)** *And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:*

### **Imagine the “Blessings” of life as our LORD taught!**

5:3 - Believers who are **poor in spirit**; theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven!

To be “poor in spirit” is to be aware one’s *destitution* and *depravity*, one’s inability to create anything good or be truly good without Jesus; it is to embrace and confess one’s total and complete spiritual and moral bankruptcy and one’s absolute need for the grace of the King! To be “poor in spirit” is to realize who you truly are before a holy God. What a far cry this is from the strong, relentless me-focused, “please-us” mindset (and preaching!) that has overtaken the modern church!

5:4 - Can you imagine the blessings of a more consistent **mourning over the sin** and brokenness of the world with a broken and contrite heart, which our LORD loves?

5:5 - Or walking in power of sincere **meekness** (humility, gentleness of spirit, not easily provoked, quickly forgives, and a...

5:6 - Or living with a hunger and **thirst for righteousness**...for true biblical holiness? Such desires will be fulfilled!

5:7 - What about a life filled with **mercy** (a compassionate grace to overlook injuries, or to treat an offender better than he deserves)?

5:8 - A fervent desire for purity? How might such a blessed life impact others?

5:9 - Can you imagine a church filled with **peacemakers**...those who truly behaved like children of God, working to keep God’s family together?

5:10-12 - And when (not if) trouble comes in the form of **persecution** and reviling because of righteousness, what if we responded with rejoicing and gladness?

5:13-16 - Christ’s children are the salt of the earth! (Flavor, thirst, preservation). We are the light of the world and must not hide! Our light must shine brightly before men that they might glorify God!

5:17-20 - What if the LORD’s church decided to be **keepers of the moral laws** and commandments of Christ and teach others to do so as well? Can you imagine the Kingdom implications if we decided to be a holy people?

5:21-26 - What if, before our weekly worship, we kept shorter accounts with others, refusing to walk in unbiblical anger?

5:27-30 - What if we took the sins of the flesh more seriously (including lust), and guarded our eyes, hearts, and modesty? What if we were more willing to “cut” such sins out of our lives?  
5:31-32 - Scripture casts a [beautiful vision for lifelong marriage](#). What if we took our LORD’s words seriously that an unbiblical divorce and remarriage results in adultery?  
5:33-37 - Instead of elaborate oaths, to mitigate the general untrustworthiness of people, what if we simply let our yes be yes and our no be no?  
5:38-42 - Instead of seeking to retaliate against our enemies, what if we went the extra mile with them instead?  
5:43-48 - Indeed what if we [loved our enemies](#), prayed for them, knowing that our Father sendeth the rain on the just and the unjust?

6:1-4 - What if God’s children where wonderfully and secretly [generous](#)...  
6:5-15 ...humbly [praying](#) as our LORD instructed each day: reverencing God our Father, thanking Him for our daily bread, acknowledging that each day is a gift from Him, asking for forgiveness and the ability to forgive, begging for His protection from temptation and for His deliverance, and praising Him great authority, power, and glory!  
6:16-18 - What if kingdom children had consistent times of fasting that we might deal with our flesh?  
6:19-24 - What if we refused to serve two masters, instead stewarding our hearts and money unto the glory of God?  
6:25-34 - What if in all these things we experienced the blessings of [peace and faith instead of worry and anxiety](#) and instead sought the Kingdom of God and His righteousness? This is God’s will for us!

### **Kingdom Life!**

7:1-14 - In the Kingdom, there is rigorous self-examination instead of sinful judgment, asking in faith and believing and instead of doubt, and a joyful but circumspect living on the narrow way (life) instead of the broad way (destruction).  
7:15-29 - Instead, as good trees, let us bring forth good fruit! Let us not simply say “Lord, Lord,” but [let us live as unto the LORD](#) doing the will of our father! Let us build our house upon the rock of His Word, so when the winds and the rains come, our houses will not fall!

### **Important Lessons about Jesus and His Kingdom**

**Our LORD is so loving and merciful. We learned:**

[8:5-13 - That our LORD loves when we walk in faith! \(Like the centurion with a sick servant.\)](#)  
[8:14-22 - That Jesus, in much lowliness of estate, took our infirmities and bore our sickness!](#)  
[8:23-34 - That He is able to calm the storms of life and rebuke demons and devils!](#)  
[8:1-4, 9:1-8, 18-24 - That no matter the disease, Christ can heal us as He did the leper, the paralyzed man, Jarius’ dead daughter, the woman with the issue of blood, the two blind men, and the demon possessed mute man!](#)

[9:1-8 - And that He is a wonderful forgiver of sins!](#)

**But there are also difficulties in the Kingdom:**

10:1-15 - And just as He called 12 sinners and sent them out as His apostles, He too calls us and sends us out. Like He did for them, He defines our message and the scope and success of our ministry.

10:16-33 - He sends us out with the promise of persecution, as sheep among wolves, and bids us still to go, preach, and declare "The Kingdom of God is at hand!" He commands us to have no fear because He loves us; the very hairs on our heads are numbered!

10:34-42 - So be encouraged! Although Christ's message has as "sword" nature on earth (because men are rebellious), Christ says love Him more than the world! [Take up the cross!](#) [Follow Him regardless!](#) There is a prophet's reward coming!

11:1-19 - John the Baptist prepared the way for Christ. He was a great prophet who was martyred for his message and faithfulness.

11:20-24 - Woe to the generations who not only would reject the prophets, but who would also reject Christ (like Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum) ! Judgment is coming!

11:25-30 - Therefore let us flee to Christ when we are weary and are heavy laden. His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

### **Prayers to our King!**

12:1-14 - Jesus, you are "LORD, even on the Sabbath." Let us honor Thee on Thy day!

12:15-21 - You are the chosen vessel of whom the Father is well pleased!

12:22-32 - You are victorious over Satan!

12:33-50 - Therefore, help us gather with Thee and not scatter. Help us be careful with our speech, and not blaspheme or seek signs. LORD Jesus, cleanse our hearts continually, lest we are overcome by evil! Cleanse our mouths. Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks! We will give an account of our words on the day of judgment! Let us do the will of Thy Father and thus, be your true family!

### **The King wants your Heart: Kingdom Living is Passionate!**

13:10-17 - In chapter 13, we learned the purpose of parables: to shield divine truth from rebellious people. In contrast, Kingdom life is about receiving Truth!

13:1-9, 18-23 - In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus describe four types of hearts: wayside, thorny, stony, and good. Each corresponds to the way the Word of God is received! Beware of the wicked one who desires to snatch the Word, a shallow response, or the cares and riches of the world that can choke the Word! [Our LORD wants us to be a good ground hearers](#) and bring forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty!

13:24-30, 36-43 - Let us beware the children of the enemy, who will secretly sow tares among the good seeds of wheat!

13:44-50 - Regardless of what comes, may we sow mustard seeds of faith that spreads like leaven among the whole lump! May our desire for the King cause to sell all to buy His field and pearl of great price, and may our nets burst with life before judgment comes!

### **Is there a more wonderful life?**

Life following the King can be quite the adventure. With Him, all things are possible! Remember when the King:

14:13-21 - Fed the 5000?

15:32-29 - Fed the 4000?

14:22-33 - Walked on water and declared to the disciples, "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid."

14:34-36 - Healed the sick in Gennesaret?

Friends, it is easy to become discouraged...overwhelmed by life and its problems. Remember who you serve! Remember what He can do! Trust Him!

### **The Kingdom Life is a holy life!**

15:1-9 - This same King commands that we honor His Word above man's:

*Matthew 15:3 (KJV) But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?*

*Matthew 15:8-9 (KJV) This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. 9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*

15:10-20 - He teaches us to avoid defilement at all costs

*Matthew 15:18-20 (KJV) But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20 These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.*

### **Kingdom Living is by Faith!**

15:21-28 - Let us remember the desperation, humility and faith of the Canaanite woman, who ran up to Jesus, fell at His feet, and cried out on behalf of her daughter. Even after being shooed away by the disciples and some stern words from Jesus, she persevered! Our LORD's response:

*Matthew 15:28 (KJV) Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.*

16:13-20 - Or the faith of Peter in the confession of all confessions:

*Matthew 16:15-16 (KJV) He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*

16:24-28 - Or the faith to live sacrificially!

*Matthew 16:24-27 (KJV) Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.*

### **Final Kingdom Exhortations:**

17:1-13 - Let us remember to worship our LORD. He is glorious!

**Matthew 17:2 (KJV)** *And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.*

**Matthew 17:5 (KJV)** *While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*

18:1-6 - Let us **humble ourselves like little children**, for the same is the Kingdom of Heaven!  
18:7-9 - Let us **fight our personal sin**, giving no quarter to the flesh, *“it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.”*  
18:10-14 - Let us seek to see the lost saved like the King...

**Matthew 18:11 (KJV)** *For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.*

18:15-20 - When it comes, let us **handle conflict biblically**, going to the person to reconcile, and only bring others then the church if we need to.  
18:21-35 - Let us **be merciful and forgive** (seventy times seven!), not like the servant who was forgiven much but refused to forgive others! The King who forgives much does not take kindly to unforgiveness ...

**Matthew 18:33-35 (KJV)** *Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? 34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. 35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.*

19:1-12 - Let us **hold to biblical gender/sexuality** and **marriage and build strong households** that are “divorce-proofed.”

**Matthew 19:4-6 (KJV)** *And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, 5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*

19:13-16 - Let us **take our children to Jesus (disciple them)**, forbidding them not. Let us do what is required!

**Matthew 19:14 (KJV)** *But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.*

19:16-30 - Let us realize our “rich young, ruler” tendencies (pride and love of riches) and walk in **humility**, willing to give up any and everything to walk with Jesus.

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**Friends, our LORD's vision of kingdom life is ultimately about our LORD himself. It's about repentance and belief in Jesus, and is a life filled with faith joy, humility, care of others, holiness, sacrifice, and biblical worship.**

Conflict will also come. There will be persecution. Our LORD has enemies and therefore, so do we. Yet, any sacrifice for the King is worth it...

**Matthew 19:27-30 (KJV)** **27** Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? **28** And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. **29** **And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.** **30** But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.

Amen!