



KINGDOM RULES, MATTHEW 5:1-2

Traveling in foreign country

- If you've ever traveled to a foreign country, you will know that fitting in isn't easy. Chances are, they will have a different language, set of customs, monetary unit, and way of life
- Imagine you are a businessman traveling to a country you know little about trying to establish business with a company there

Traveling in foreign country

- Nobody likes to look foolish, especially if a multi-million-dollar business deal is on the line. Or if you are just trying to make a good impression that one day may lead to a million-dollar deal

Country differences

- Belgium – Do not snap your fingers or point with your forefinger. These are considered rude gestures
- Canada – Thumbs down is considered offensive
- China – Greet people in order of importance with slight bow, It is not polite to finish your food
- India – Feet are considered unclean, Never point them at people

Country differences

- Japan – Do not start to eat until the honored guest starts eating and never tip, It is considered rude
- Russia – Do not shake hands over a threshold, It is considered bad luck, When dining hold your fork in your left hand, tines down, and knife in your right hand

Country differences

- United Arab Emirates – The left hand is considered unclean, When you are eating, passing document and so on, use your right hand
- Turkey – It is considered rude for the soles of your shoes to be showing, Be sure to keep them on the ground

Jesus' Ministry

- **Matthew 4:17 NIV** - From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."
- **Matthew 4:23 NIV** - Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

Jesus' Ministry

- Starting in chapter 5 Jesus begins to teach and train His disciples what will be expected of those in His kingdom
- He provides a description of life in the Kingdom of Heaven

Jesus' Ministry

- **Matthew 5:1-3 NIV** Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them. He said: 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Jesus as King

- Often it is difficult for us to visualize Jesus as King, because we are pretty much clueless as to what life is like under a King
- We know about kings and kingdoms

Scriptures clearly state Jesus has a Kingdom and we as born-again Christians are part of His Kingdom

- **John 18:33 NIV** - Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Scriptures clearly state Jesus has a Kingdom and we as born-again Christians are part of His Kingdom

- **John 18:36-38 NIV** - Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.” 37 “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

Scriptures clearly state Jesus has a Kingdom and we as born-again Christians are part of His Kingdom

- **John 17:16 NIV** - They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.
- **Colossians 1:13-14 NIV** – 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Scriptures clearly state Jesus has a Kingdom and we as born-again Christians are part of His Kingdom

- We know how to live in the dominion of darkness but what does it mean to live in the Kingdom of the Son?

Notice we must be taught what it means to live in the Kingdom of the Son

- Living as God's children is not a matter of instinct
- **Jeremiah 17:9 NLT** - “The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?
 - **AMP** - “The heart is deceitful above all things and it is extremely sick; Who can understand it fully and know its secret motives?

Notice we must be taught what it means to live in the Kingdom of the Son

- **Jeremiah 17:9 NLT** - “The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?”
 - **MSG** - The heart is hopelessly dark and deceitful, a puzzle that no one can figure out.
- This truth offends people, even Christians, today

Notice we must be taught what it means to live in the Kingdom of the Son

- **At The Cross Hymn**

"Alas! and did my Saviour bleed,
And did my Sovereign die?
Would he devote that sacred Head
For such a worm as I?"

- In today's hymnals, it reads "For Sinners such as I"
- Wonder why it was changed?

Notice we must be taught what it means to live in the Kingdom of the Son

- There is nothing within us, nothing that we have learned, no amount of inherent ability that prepares us to live in His Kingdom
 - Why Jesus told Nicodemus, “You must be born again.”
- The ways of man and the ways of the Son are complete opposites, in competition with each other, fighting each other

Notice we must be taught what it means to live in the Kingdom of the Son

- Scripture tells us we must drop the ways of this fleshly world like a coat and pick up the characteristics and thinking of Jesus
- **Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV** - 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Notice we must be taught what it means to live in the Kingdom of the Son

- **Vs. 1** “When Jesus saw the crowds” – What did Jesus see?
- Jesus also saw how his disciples were responding in their heart toward the crowd
- Might have been, “This is going to be great for us following Jesus”
- Might have been, “How could Jesus touch that one?”

Notice we must be taught what it means to live in the Kingdom of the Son

- It was incorrect Kingdom thinking which leads to incorrect Kingdom living
- Jesus understood his disciples were not ready for this experience, it was not their time yet
- **Vs. 1** “He went up to a mountainside and sat down”
- Not a synagogue, the temple, rich man’s home

Notice we must be taught what it means to live in the Kingdom of the Son

- The message was for all people, some would never have heard this message in those places – the sick, lame, possessed, Gentiles
- Jesus sat down indicating He was the teacher and was to be listened to
 - Indicating He was the one in authority and disciples were to come to him

Notice we must be taught what it means to live in the Kingdom of the Son

- Jesus came down from heaven not just for salvation, but to teach us how to live a blessed life in His kingdom here on earth
- As much as we love our country and pledge allegiance to the flag representing this country, we are aliens here
- Our heart, life, soul, our very being belongs to the King and His Kingdom

Notice we must be taught what it means to live in the Kingdom of the Son

- **2nd Corinthians 5:20 NIV** - We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Jesus began teaching His disciples His rules for His Kingdom

- **Matthew 7:28-29 NIV** - 28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.
- Jesus is not some weak, milk toast, undecisive King as portrayed in our world today

Jesus began teaching His disciples His rules for His Kingdom

- Matthew Poole – “He began to speak to them with freedom, so as the multitude might hear”
- CH Spurgeon – “Jesus Christ spoke like a man in earnest; he enunciated clearly and spoke loudly. He lifted His voice like a trumpet so the audience would not just hear but feel His words.”

Jesus began teaching His disciples His rules for His Kingdom

- When He spoke it was clear, strong, authoritative
- When He spoke bodies were healed, demons dispatched, the dead come to life again
- He spoke with authority because He had all authority

Jesus began teaching His disciples His rules for His Kingdom

- **John 18:4-6 NIV** - 4 Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?” 5 “Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “I am he,” Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) 6 When Jesus said, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground.

Jesus began teaching His disciples His rules for His Kingdom

- The kingdom is to be a reflection of the king. So, what does that mean?
 - The king sets the rules for living in his kingdom
 - The king's rules reflect his character, what he sees as important and how he wants His subjects to live
 - By the way we live our lives we are to reflect the character and desires of our king

Jesus began teaching His disciples His rules for His Kingdom

- Jesus did not ask them what they thought, there was no committee or focus group, no one stood up in objection to his commands
- They went away amazed at the person of Jesus Christ and His teaching of truth
- Never mistake Jesus' patience with us as His approval of our behavior when it is contrary to His teaching

Jesus began teaching His disciples His rules for His Kingdom

- The purpose of Scripture is to fill us with God's character, wisdom and ways so we can alter our fleshly lives to imitate our King here on earth
- **2nd Timothy 3:16-17 NIV** - 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (*the King has for him*).

Jesus began teaching His disciples His rules for His Kingdom

- **MSG** - Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.

The key to living in the Kingdom of the Son is an attitude of humility

- **James 4:6 NIV** - “God opposes (*stands against*) the proud but shows favor to the humble.”
 - Human/Fleshly pride is all about me, myself, and I
 - What I think, important to me, me first thinking, what I think is due me, where I think I fit in relation to others – It is Judas thinking
 - No room for meekness, forgiveness, trusting God

The key to living in the Kingdom of the Son is an attitude of humility

- Biblical humility is our only access into the Kingdom, God's grace and mercy, Salvation
- **Vs. 3** - He said: 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
- You will not accept the ways of God without humility
- John Piper, "God has told us at least five truths about humility."

The key to living in the Kingdom of the Son is an attitude of humility

- Humility begins with a sense of subordination to God in Christ.
 - “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master” (**Matthew 10:24**).
 - “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God” (**1 Peter 5:6**).

The key to living in the Kingdom of the Son is an attitude of humility

- Humility does not feel a right to better treatment than Jesus got.
 - “Students are to be like their teacher, and slaves are to be like their master. And since I, the master of the household, have been called the prince of demons, the members of my household will be called by even worse names! (**Matthew 10:25**).

The key to living in the Kingdom of the Son is an attitude of humility

- It is not life based on its perceived rights.
 - “Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in his steps. . . . While suffering, he uttered no threats, but handed [his cause] over to him who judges righteously” (1 Peter 2:21–23).

The key to living in the Kingdom of the Son is an attitude of humility

- Humility asserts truth not to bolster ego with control or with triumphs in debate, but as service to Christ and love to the adversary.
 - “Love rejoices in the truth” (1 Corinthians 13:6).
 - “We do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus’s sake” (2 Corinthians 4:5).

The key to living in the Kingdom of the Son is an attitude of humility

- Humility knows it is dependent on grace for all knowing and believing.
 - “What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?” (1 Corinthians 4:7).
 - “In humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21).

The key to living in the Kingdom of the Son is an attitude of humility

- Humility knows it is fallible, and so considers criticism and learns from it.
 - “We see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known”
(1 Corinthians 13:12).
 - “A wise man is he who listens to counsel”
(Proverbs 12:15).

The image or example of humility is our Lord/King Jesus Christ

- **Philippians 2:5-6 NIV** - 5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

The image or example of humility is our Lord/King Jesus Christ

- **MSG 5-8** Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human!

The image or example of humility is our Lord/King Jesus Christ

- **MSG 5-8** Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

The image or example of humility is our Lord/King Jesus Christ

- What old fleshly characteristic are you still putting up with because it is hard to overcome?
- What old fleshly thinking are you holding onto preventing the full blessing God has for you?
- Do you want more out of life?

The image or example of humility is our Lord/King Jesus Christ

- **Proverbs 14:12 NIV** There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.
- **Jeremiah 17:7 NLT** “But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence.



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