



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

Kingdom Principles – Part 1

Matthew 5:17-32

Message #16 of 80 – S1046

Sermon given on May 21, 2023



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Kingdom Principles – Part 1

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Opening Comments

- **Happy Mother's Day** - Open your Bibles to **Matthew 5**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- We are in the section of the gospel of Matthew referred to as the Sermon on the Mount.
- It began with the Beatitudes.
- These were eight characteristics of the true Christian.
- Not that we have these mastered, but they should be present and being developed as our faith in God, His Word, and Christ grows.
- And then last time, we saw that the beatitudes are to be lived out in our lives.
- And when they are, they are like salt, the Christian life acts to preserve what is good, adds flavor, and creates a thirst for the things of God.
- We also saw that living the beatitudes causes the light of God to shine out of our lives into the darkness of the world around.
- We also saw that we need to take our light out into the darkness.
- We can't hide our light, it is meant to shine forth, so that those in the darkness might find their way to God.
- Starting in verse 17, Jesus is going to briefly lay out the principles of the kingdom of God.

Principle: a comprehensive and fundamental law, doctrine, or assumption - a rule or code of conduct.

- We say someone is principled when they consistently adhere to what they believe to be right and true.
- Jesus is going to lay out several principles for us to give us the foundation for living a good life.
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give us ears to hear. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **Kingdom Principles – Part 1**

- Jesus begins with a foundational principle.
- All other principles must build upon this foundation.
- **Kingdom Principle #1 – Obey God’s commands!**
- **Matthew 5:17-18**
- The Law refers to the first five books of the Bible.
- Also known as the books of Moses or the Pentateuch.
- The Prophets could refer to just the books of Isaiah to Malachi, but some believe it refers to the rest of the Bible.
- Jesus is saying He did not come to nullify or do away with the Old Testament.
- It is still as valid today as it was when it was written. **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- Does that mean we should be doing the things God told the Jews to do? Should we be sacrificing animals to atone for our sins?
- No! Jesus was the sacrifice that atoned for all sins for all people for all time. **1 John 2:2**

And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

- Jesus goes on to tell us how to relate to God’s Word.
- **Matthew 5:19**
- God’s commandments are not to be treated like God’s suggestions.
- The Ten Commandments are not 10 things you can do to have a blessed life.
- All of God’s commandments are what God expects His people to do.
- To be in a right relationship with God, our principles must be based obedience to God’s Word.
- Someone who steals because their employer doesn’t pay them what they think they are worth has wrong principles.
- The employer might be in the wrong, but that doesn’t justify doing what God says is wrong.
- Our principles need to align with God’s Word as well as we understand it.
- This verse also includes a warning.

- If you break God's commandments and others are influenced to follow your example, it will cost you something in eternity.
- This should be a sobering thought to most men, husbands, and fathers.
- Principle # 1 – Obey God's Commands.
- **Kingdom Principle #2 – Don't trust in your righteousness!**
- **Matthew 5:20**
- This would have been a shocking thing for the people to hear.
- The Scribes and the Pharisees were considered to be the most righteous people around.
- To Jesus' hearers, He was setting an impossible standard before them.
- To the religious Jews the Law consisted of 613 specific commandments and countless rules, traditions, and examples.
- It became a burden that no one could bear.
- Jesus is not calling people to a rigid legalism, but freedom to walk in the Spirit.
- That doesn't negate the commandments, but it puts the day-to-day interpretation of the Scriptures into the authority of the Holy Spirit in everyone's life.
- The righteousness we are seeking is not the righteousness of the Law, but righteousness with God through faith in Christ and in willing submission to the leading of the Holy Spirit **Romans 10:4**.

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

- The Law teaches us of our sinfulness and need for a Savior.
- There is no righteousness in the Law.
- If there was, it could save us. Only Jesus can save us.
- It is His righteousness that is imputed to us through faith in His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.
- We cannot trust in our righteousness – we must trust in His!

Kingdom Principle #3 – Have a high regard for life!

• **Matthew 5:21-26**

- What is murder? Why is murder wrong?

Murder: the crime of unlawfully and unjustifiably killing a person.

- Not only is it wrong to kill people, but Jesus says that anything that leads to killing is also wrong.

- Wrong attitudes and thoughts and feelings that lead to violence are to be avoided.
- We are called to have a high regard for human life.
- We should also have a high regard for the dignity of others.
- We were all created by God to carry His image out into the world.
- To despise another human is to despise someone God created.
- It is usually our differences that create conflict within groups.
- As believers, we ought to respond to differences with love, respect, and grace.
- Anything that can lead to killing is sin.
- We are to avoid anger because it can more easily lead to killing.
- Anger wounds people, both who are on the giving and receiving side of the equation.
- Having a high regard for human life as a principle should keep us from feelings and expressions of anger.
- It will also guide us on topics like abortion.
- **Kingdom Principle #4 – Have a high regard for marriage!**
- **Matthew 5:27-30**
- Marriage was the first institution God created after He created Adam and Eve.
- The biblical view of marriage is a covenant between God, a man, and a woman, for a lifetime.
- As a God-ordained covenant it should never be broken.
- Adultery is a breaking of the covenant of marriage.
- Many in our culture, if they even acknowledge the concept of adultery, would describe it as physical intimacy with someone other than your spouse.
- Jesus says the problem begins before the act – it begins in the heart and mind.
- Lust is an intense or strong desire.
- Simply looking is not a sin, but looking if not restrained by a high regard for marriage can lead to lust which can lead to adultery.

- Adultery does not begin in the bedroom – it begins in the eye and that affects the heart, which influences the mind and determines our actions.
- All sin is bad, but the sin of adultery causes immense pain to others.
- We should take whatever steps are necessary to prevent it.
- Jesus is calling us to the highest possible level of holiness.
- His desire for us is that we would care so much about our holiness that we would rather be maimed than to give in to sin.
- This is a calling to extreme deliberate attention to our holiness.
- Jesus then touches on the topic of divorce.
- **Matthew 5:31-32**
- Sexual immorality or fornication is any sexual activity other than between a man and woman in the bonds of the marriage covenant.
- Sexual immorality on the part of one of the spouses is a condition under which divorce is allowed.
- But from that we should not suggest that divorce is required if there is sexual immorality.
- There must always be space for repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation.
- There is a lot more that could be said on all these topics.
- Pastor Randy is going to come up after I pray and lead us in Communion.
- If you need prayer on anything you heard here today or have questions, please come see me after the service.
- I love talking to God's people about the things of God.
- We have looked at four principles for living in Christ's Kingdom.
- **Kingdom Principle #1 – Obey God's commands!**
- **Kingdom Principle #2 – Don't trust in your righteousness!**
- **Kingdom Principle #3 – Have a high regard for life!**
- **Kingdom Principle #4 – Have a high regard for marriage!**
- Let's pray and ask God to help us make those our principles as we walk in this world as salt and light.
- And if you can stay, we will be doing the Future Today Prophecy Meeting shortly after we are done here. Let's pray!