

Blessings Of Citizenship Matthew 5:11-12

Good News Of The Kingdom

Matthew 4:23-25

Jesus starts sermon on the mount, discussing blessedness of those possessing certain qualities
As suggested in previous lesson, Jesus seems to answer two questions some might have asked.

Previous study considered who will be the citizens of the kingdom?

Eight inter-related qualities or "attitudes" would dominate their character: Poor in spirit, mourning for sins, meek, hunger for righteousness, merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, willing to suffer persecution

Today will consider what do these citizens gain.

Is it a worthwhile effort to develop such qualities?

Is it worth persecution we might endure?

Yes! and becomes apparent as we consider the blessedness of the citizens of the kingdom

Summarized By "Blessed" (9 times)

Psalms 1:1; Revelation 1:3

This word involves great joy and gladness

Can literally mean, "how very happy!" is the one described - **Matthew 5:12; Luke 6:22-23**

Benefit of citizenship in Kingdom of Heaven is state of true happiness!

Both Present And Future

Theirs is the kingdom of heaven - **Matthew 4:17**

They are under the rule of God; in a spiritual kingdom

Church, present manifestation of kingdom of heaven - **Matthew 16:18; Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:9**

Involve new heavens and new earth in future - **Matthew 25:34; 2Peter 1:10-11; 3:13; Revelation 21-22**

Used twice which seems to imply blessings between also apply to those in the kingdom

As kingdom is both present and future, blessings described involve both present and future

Shall be comforted

Now - **2Corinthians 1:3-5**; At the end - **Revelation 21:1-4**

Shall inherit the earth

Result of putting kingdom first - **Matthew 6:33; Mark 10:29-30**

May have less than some who are wicked, God enables to enjoy it more! - **Ecclesiastes 5:19-6:2**

Seems consistent with context of **Psalms 37**, from which the phrase was taken - **Psalms 37:1-11,16-29**

In another sense, remains promise concerning new earth for those in kingdom now - **2Peter 3:10-13**

Shall be filled - **Philippians 3:8-9; Romans 5:9; Revelation 19:5-9**

Shall obtain mercy - **Revelation 1:5-6; Romans 5:9**

Shall see God - **James 4:8; John 14:6-7; Revelation 21:3; 22:3-4**

Shall be called sons of God - **1John 3:1-2; Revelation 21:5-7**

Theirs is the kingdom of heaven - **Acts 14:21-22; 2John 1:8; Revelation 22:12**

Worth The Struggle

Perhaps we can now better understand why those in the kingdom of heaven are truly called blessed

Living in Kingdom of God has difficulties, yet will be outweighed by blessings - **Matthew 5:11-12**

Certainly, outweigh anything in world, or persecution it might inflict! - **Romans 8:18; 2Corinthians 4:17**

There are blessings now in this life and in the age to come - **Mark 10:28-30**

Blessedness of citizens is only for those continuing to develop characteristics of citizens

Do we have the qualities described in the beatitudes? If not, do not the blessings described in the beatitudes encourage us to develop such qualities?

May these beatitudes motivate us to examine attitudes, to see if there is room for improvement in our relationships with both God and man