

# MATTHEW

*Heirs of the Kingdom*

# Review

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- Week 1: Jesus is our King, Sage, and Savior.

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- Week 2: His teaching in the Sermon must be understood in the context of the new exodus (deliverance from sin), new creation (life in the Spirit), and new covenant (transformed hearts).

# Review

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- **Week 1:** Jesus is our King, Sage, and Savior.
- **Week 2:** His teaching in the Sermon must be understood in the context of the new exodus (deliverance from sin), new creation (life in the Spirit), and new covenant (transformed hearts).
- **Week 3:** The beatitudes hold out Jesus's invitations to the good life of flourishing in the upside-down, inside-out, already-not yet kingdom.

## Matthew 5:1-12

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Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

## Matthew 5:1-12

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<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. <sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. <sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. <sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

## Matthew 5:1-12

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<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

# Outline

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1. Who is the kingdom for?
2. How do you get in?
3. What does it promise?

# 1. Who is the kingdom for?

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Matthew 5:3-5

# 1. Who is the kingdom for?

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"Blessed are the poor in spirit"

- "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." (Luke 6:20)

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## "Blessed are the poor in spirit"

- "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." (Luke 6:20)
- "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them."  
(Matt. 11:4-5)

# 1. Who is the kingdom for?

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"Blessed are the poor in spirit"

- "But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word." (Isaiah 66:2b)

# 1. Who is the kingdom for?

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## "Blessed are the poor in spirit"

- "But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word." (Isaiah 66:2b)
- "has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?" (James 2:5)

The  
**Story** of **God**  
Bible Commentary

SERMON ON |  
THE MOUNT |

Scot McKnight

Tremper Longman III & Scot McKnight  
*General Editors*

**The ‘poor in spirit’ . . . describes an economically, physically impoverished or oppressed person who not only recognizes her or his need but also trusts in God for full redemption . . . Rather than being forced to choose between economic or spiritual poverty, it is wisest to see here a both/and: both spiritually dependent and economically needy . . .**

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Jesus has in mind the *Anawim*, a group of economically disadvantaged Jews (Ps 149:4; Isa 49:13; 61:1-2; 66:2). . . The *Anawim* had three features: (1) they were economically poor and (2) yet trusted in God . . . (3) and they longed for the Messiah, who would finally bring justice.

—Scot McKnight

(numbering added)

# 1. Who is the kingdom for?

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## "Blessed are those who mourn"

- The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor...to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit... (Isa. 61:1-3)

# 1. Who is the kingdom for?

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## "Blessed are those who mourn"

- Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. (James 4:8-10)

# 1. Who is the kingdom for?

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## "Blessed are the meek"

- Old Testament background in Psalm 37
- "In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there. <sup>11</sup> But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace. (Ps. 37:10-11)

# 1. Who is the kingdom for?

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## "Blessed are the meek"

- Other translations: gentle (CSB), humble (NLT)
- "I am gentle and lowly in heart" (Matt. 11:29)
- "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey"  
(Matt. 21:5)

# 1. Who is the kingdom for?

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## Application

- Hope for the down-and-out – the kingdom is for *ALL* who depend on God

# 1. Who is the kingdom for?

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## Application

- Hope for the down-and-out – the kingdom is for *ALL* who depend on God
- Humility for everyone – the kingdom is *ONLY* for those who depend on God

# 1 Timothy 6:17-19

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As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. <sup>18</sup> They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, <sup>19</sup> thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

## 2. How do you get in?

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Matt. 19:23-24; Matt. 18:1-4; John 3:3-7

## 2. How do you get in?

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### The difficulty (impossibility) of entering the kingdom

- “Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven.  
<sup>24</sup> Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” <sup>25</sup> When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” <sup>26</sup> But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”  
(Matt. 19:23-24)

## 2. How do you get in?

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### The necessity of change

- At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”<sup>2</sup> And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them<sup>3</sup> and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn [change, NIV] and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.<sup>4</sup> Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 18:1-4)

## 2. How do you get in?

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### The necessity of change (or new birth)

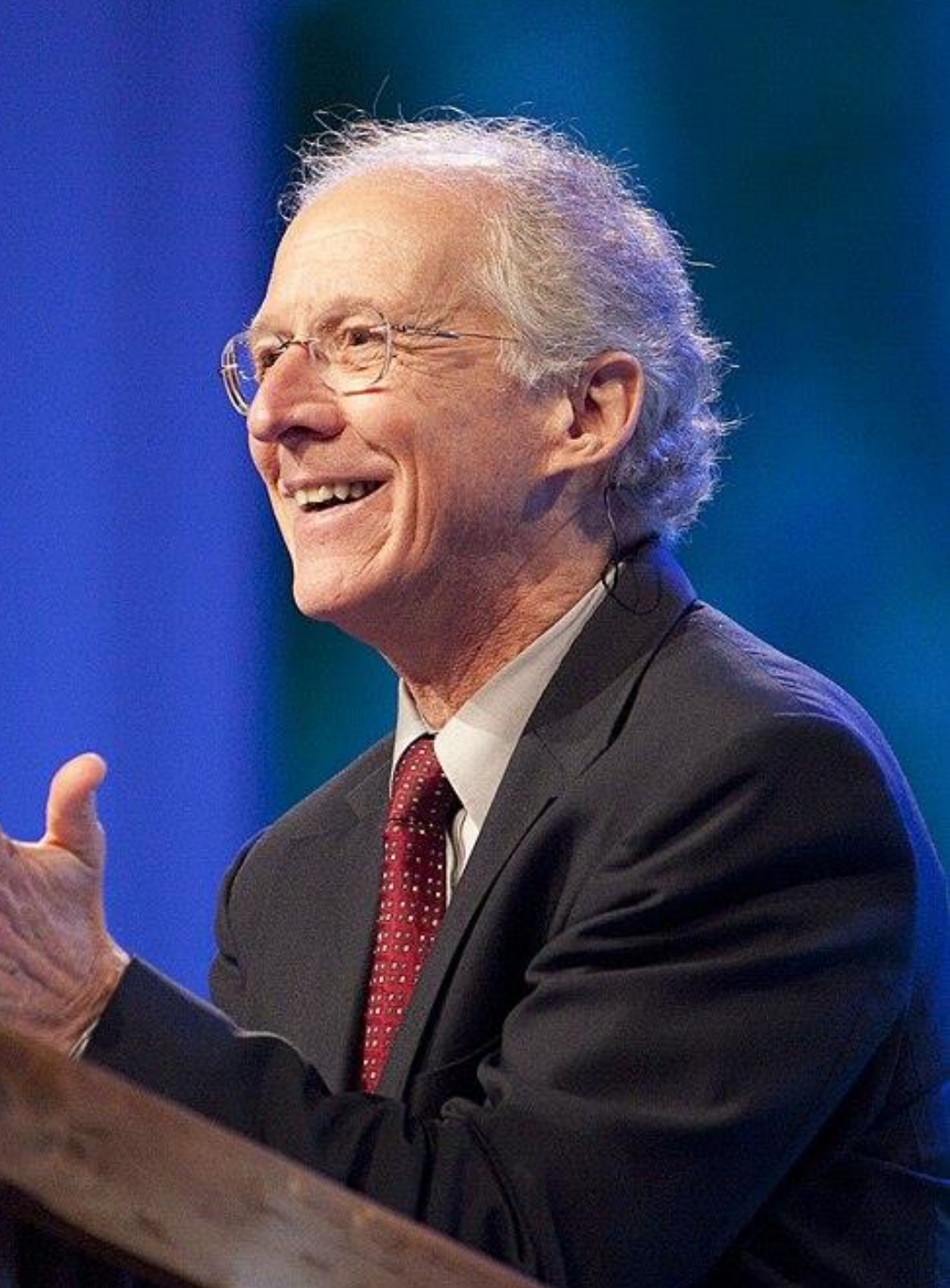
- “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God . . . Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’” (John 3:3-7)

## 2. How do you get in?

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### Application

- Have you experienced new birth?



**“Conversion is what happens to the heart when Christ becomes for us a Treasure Chest of holy joy . . . Saving faith is the confidence that if you sell all you have, and forsake all sinful pleasures, the hidden treasure of holy joy will satisfy your deepest desires . . . Behind the repentance that turns away from sin and behind the faith that embraces Christ is the birth of a new taste, a new longing, a new passion for the pleasures of God’s presence.” (John Piper)**

## 2. How do you get in?

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Matt. 19:23-24; Matt. 18:1-4; John 3:3-7

### 3. What does the kingdom promise?

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Matthew 5:3-5

### 3. What does it promise?

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The promises of the first three beatitudes:

- “theirs is the kingdom of heaven”
- “they shall be comforted”
- “they shall inherit the earth”

### 3. What does it promise?

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#### The already / not yet promise of the kingdom

- We are already heirs
- We are not yet in full possession of the “inheritance”

# 3. What does it promise?

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## Application

- Beware of any eschatology\* that promises too much now... or too little!

\*eschatology = doctrine of last things

### 3. What does it promise?

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#### Application

- Beware of any eschatology that promises too much now... or too little!
- Live with present confidence of your future hope

# The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

C. S. LEWIS



*The Chronicles of Narnia*  
FULL-COLOR COLLECTOR'S EDITION

# MATTHEW

*Heirs of the Kingdom*