

LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ONLY ME

Matthew 5:6-8

Introduction: Everyday we see, hear, read the news about the evilness of people, the killings, beatings, robberies, the child molestations, etc.

- These people who do such things are guilty, they know it, and they deserve punishment, but it seems that they are getting away with their horrible crimes. Where is justice? An eye for an eye is what they deserve we say. If it happens to us or to our family, we want to be the ones dispensing the justice, the punishment.

- The prisons are running over but still not full enough, there are unknown thousands of evil people still on the loose. Will they ever be caught and punished?

- If you feel that the guilty should be punished for their crimes and evilness, then you are blessed for you are the kind of person what will really appreciate God's Kingdom. For justice reigns there.

I. THOSE CRYING OUT FOR JUSTICE WILL ENJOY GOD'S KINGDOM (*Matthew 5:6*)

- "Righteousness" points to uprightness, doing the right thing, obeying God's rules and it also means justice.

- All through the Bible God's people have always crying out for Him to give them justice, to punish those who have killed, stolen, invaded their land and possessions.

- *Jeremiah 12:1*

- Sometimes it seems like people who do evil things get away with it, but all throughout the Bible God promises that one day, justice will be done. Every crime will be punished.

- Are you the kind of person who doesn't like to see the wicked get away with their crimes? If so, then you are "blessed." You will certainly appreciate the Kingdom of God because the Kingdom of God demands that justice be satisfied and the guilty punished.

- *Acts 17:31; Psalm 9:7-8; Isaiah 9:6-7; Psalm 45:6; 2 Peter 3:13*

- All the people we read about, hear about and see on television and even know personally, who have committed all these horrible crimes will be punished.

- HOWEVER, what we really want is justice for everybody EXCEPT ourselves. We want to go free and not be punished. What we want is justice for them but MERCY for us, right?

II. THOSE WHO FORGIVE UNEXPECTEDLY WILL BE WELCOME IN GOD'S KINGDOM

(*Matthew 5:7*)

- "Mercy" is a sort of unexpected forgiveness. Justice is punishment for those who deserve it, but mercy is forgiveness that someone does not deserve. No reason, no justification, it's just given.

- A bit like how our sins are dealt with, not because we said "we're sorry" or that we're trying to make up for the sin. God forgives us our sins because He is MERCIFUL. Since God has been merciful to us (here's the catch), He expects us to be merciful toward others.

- To those who demonstrate mercy, who forgive others even though they haven't done anything to deserve it, they (you) are blessed because that's just the kind of thing God would do.

- We should show mercy to the undeserving because God has been merciful to us and we certainly didn't deserve it either.

III. THOSE WHO ARE ABSOLUTELY INNOCENT WILL BE MOST WELCOME IN GOD'S KINGDOM

(Matthew 5:8)

- "Pure" means without any contaminant, stain or spot, absolutely innocent of anything wrong. Outward behavior completely perfect, and the heart, innermost thoughts, motives, desires, dreams, absolutely perfect through and through. Totally perfect in all ways.
- Do you find yourself having to stop at this point? Like others you have identified yourself with the other two things Jesus has mentioned, but this one? It's a bit different.
 - We can work on the other two things like Justice and Forgiveness, but this one makes us a bit uncomfortable.
 - To you who qualify and are absolutely perfect, innocent inside and out, you are blessed. Do you qualify? Absolute perfection, absolute innocence, not a single blemish? Is this you?
 - *Hebrews 12:14, 16; Romans 3:25*
- Wait a minute! The Bible says that if we are in Christ Jesus, our sins have been forgiven AND we have the righteousness of Christ. So, in God's eyes believers are absolutely innocent!!!!
 - But..it's through God's MERCY and grace that we have been declared clean. But how can God be a God of JUSTICE if He lets us go free? How can God be a God of JUSTICE if He lets everybody go free?
 - The death of Jesus met all the demands of God's justice and because of that God gives believers in Jesus mercy and forgiveness and therefore believers (us) qualify for the Kingdom of God.

CONCLUSION:

- God can bless those who have certain inadequacies and those who need the Kingdom of God the most for those who long for the things they don't have and are missing have to turn to God for them.
- Jesus gave people hope that God's Kingdom was not out of their reach and that their deepest desires would be fulfilled in that Kingdom.
- So, you are blessed if you are spiritually bankrupt, deeply dismayed, completely inadequate, crying out for justice, can forgive unexpectedly, absolutely innocent and you will fit right in the Kingdom of God.
- To enter the Kingdom of God is through Jesus Christ only. Belief in Him with one's entire existence, body and soul causes one to be literally re-born (born again) into God's Kingdom.
 - So, have you been born into the Kingdom of God?