

Aliens & Stranger Things

Part 2- The Upside Down

Matthew 5:1-12

But First!!

Jesus' first public statement in Matthew – 4:17

Then

4:23 proclaiming the “good news” of the kingdom

5:1-12 is the beginning of the record of that teaching

- this is life in the Kingdom
- this is a statement of Kingdom values
 - poor in spirit
 - mourn
 - gentle
 - hunger & thirst for righteousness (instead of earthly desires)
 - merciful
 - pure in heart
 - peacemakers
 - persecuted, insulted, persecuted

Notice the results: clearly about Christ's rule (salvation)

- kingdom of heaven, inherit the earth, receive mercy, see God, called sons of God

Application

Too often, people claiming Christ & declaring a desire to advance His Kingdom have demonstrated the OPPOSITE of these values

-As God's people we have celebrated, “blessed” and followed/supported those who embody the OPPOSITE of these values.

- in church conflict
- in marriage & family conflict
- in civil society & politics

The world is opposite the rule of Christ

As Christians we have often reflected the Pharisees of Jesus' day.

- not poor in spirit but confident in righteousness
- not mourn, but proud of good deeds & uprightness
- not hungry & thirsty, already good
- not mercy but legality morality
- not peaceful but provoking

Do your life, your interactions, your conflicts, at church, at home, in society & politics reflect the Kingdom values listed here?