

MATTHEW

~ Kingdom Life ~



MATTHEW *Kingdom Life*

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- ¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying,
“Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”
- ² And calling to Him a child, He put him in the midst of them
- ³ and said,
“Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children,
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom
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¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

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Kingdom life requires humility

**Kingdom life requires us to
engage in spiritual battle**

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**Protect the
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vulnerable**

**Fight
ruthlessly
against sin**

³ “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵ “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶ but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

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Kingdom life requires us to engage in spiritual battle

**Protect the
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⁷ “Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!

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1 John 2:15-17

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

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The world is “a system of ideas, values, morals, practices, and social norms that are integrated into the mainstream and eventually institutionalized in a culture corrupted by the twin sins of rebellion against God and the redefinition of good and evil.”

-John Mark Comer, *Live No Lies*

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⁸ And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

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Romans 8:13

“For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

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“Indwelling sin is compared to a person, a living person, called “the old man,” with his faculties, and properties, his wisdom, craft, subtlety, strength; this, says the apostle, must be killed, put to death, mortified, — that is, have its power, life, vigour, and strength, to produce its effects, taken away by the Spirit.”

- John Owen, *Of the Mortification of Sin in Believers*

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“Do you mortify; do you make it your daily work; be always at it whilst you live; cease not a day from this work; be killing sin or it will be killing you. Your being dead with Christ virtually, your being quickened with him, will not excuse you from this work.”

- John Owen, *Of the Mortification of Sin in Believers*

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“Sin aims always at the utmost; every time it rises up to tempt or entice, might it have its own course, it would go out to the utmost sin in that kind. Every unclean thought or glance would be adultery if it could; every covetous desire would be oppression, every thought of unbelief would be atheism, might it grow to its head.”

- John Owen, *Of the Mortification of Sin in Believers*

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“In Jesus’ picture, it is better to go into Life with only a portion of the experience of which some boast than to go, filled with many experiences, straight to hell. It is better to go limping into Life than to go leaping into hell.”

- Frederick Dale Bruner, *Matthew: The Churchbook*

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So.....therefore.....what now?

**1. The church is to be a place of welcome
and spiritual protection.**

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1. The church is to be a place of welcome and spiritual protection.

2. Heed Jesus' warning - are you causing spiritual harm to others?

1. The church is to be a place of welcome and spiritual protection.
2. Heed Jesus' warning - are you causing spiritual harm to others?
3. Deal severely with your own sin.

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