



Today, we continue our July series, "The Kingdom Is Everything," by exploring how the blessings of the kingdom are only received by those who are broken enough to admit their need. In His hometown of Nazareth, Jesus preaches His first recorded sermon—and while the people are initially impressed, they ultimately reject Him. Why? Because the kingdom He offers is not for the proud, but for the poor in spirit.

## Questions

### I. I. The Kingdom Blesses the Spiritually Broken (vv. 16–21)

- A. Jesus reads from Isaiah 61, a prophecy every Jew associated with the coming of the kingdom.
- B. He claims that this Scripture is fulfilled *today*... that He is the anointed One sent to proclaim good news.
- C. This good news is for:
  1. **The** \_\_\_\_\_ **in Spirit** – those who know they have nothing.
  2. **The** \_\_\_\_\_ – those enslaved by sin, shame, and addiction.
  3. **The** \_\_\_\_\_ – those who cannot see truth clearly.
  4. **The** \_\_\_\_\_ – those weighed down by wounds, trauma, and guilt.
- D. The year of the Lord's favor:
  1. Isaiah 61:2: *to proclaim the year of the Lord's* \_\_\_\_\_, ... *to comfort all who mourn.*
  2. This is Jubilee language: freedom, forgiveness, release.
- E. **Insight:** The kingdom is for the desperate, not the polished, the proud, or the entitled.

### II. The Kingdom Offends the Self-Righteous (vv. 22–27)

- A. The people speak well of Jesus at first, but then scoff: "*Isn't this* \_\_\_\_\_ *son?*"
  1. Jesus exposes their hidden expectations: *What we've heard that took place in Capernaum,* \_\_\_\_\_ *in your hometown also.*
    - a) But He knows their hearts are closed.
    - b) Even if He performed signs, they would not \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. John 12:37).
- B. He cites two Gentile examples:
  1. The Widow at Zarephath
  2. Naaman the Syrian
  3. God passed over the religious and blessed outsiders because of their faith and humility.
- C. The kingdom is not given to the deserving, but to the dependent.

### III. The Kingdom Divides Hearts (vv. 28–30)

- A. The synagogue crowd is \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Their religious pride turns to murderous rejection.
- C. But Jesus *passed right through the crowd and* \_\_\_\_\_. His time had not yet come.
- D. The kingdom will either humble you or offend you—but it will never leave you neutral.

### IV. As We Close...

- A. The kingdom still welcomes the desperate. But it will never make room for the proud.
- B. Will you come like the widow, like Naaman?
- C. Will you come poor in spirit and walk away rich in grace.
- D. "The Kingdom is still everything—but only for those who know they have nothing."

1. Why do you think the people in Nazareth were so offended by Jesus' message, even though He spoke of healing, freedom, and restoration? What does this reveal about the dangers of religious pride?
2. Which of these descriptions resonates most with your spiritual journey, and why?
3. What does it teach us about seeing people through the lens of grace?
4. How do the stories of the outsiders Jesus mentioned challenge our assumptions about who is "worthy" of God's kingdom?

## Answers

Went on His Way  
 Poor  
 Enraged  
 Captives  
 Believe  
 Blind  
 Do Here  
 Oppressed  
 Joseph's  
 Favor