

***The Kings Paradigm for Kingdom Living
Becoming a Person of Influence!
Matthew 5:3-12***

Intro: People watch each other, keeping mental notes on those around them. When we need something, we usually think, “*Who do I know that I can call on?*” If we need a cup of sugar, we think of the next-door neighbor. When our do is sick we think of the friend who is a vet or breeds dogs. When our computer doesn’t work properly we think of that computer wizard at church. People are our most accessible, most economical, and efficient source of information.

When a person gets interested in spiritual things, they’re likely to look around for people they know and whom they think might have answers to their questions. They will go to someone they know to find these answers even more so than seek someone like Billy Graham, God uses normal people to attract the attention of those who find themselves looking for answers to spiritual questions.

God understands this so therefore He laid out His *paradigm* for His people to become a **Person of Influence** in the lives of those who are looking for spiritual answers.

What is a *paradigm*? A *paradigm* is a “*model that forms the basis of something; an example that serves as a pattern or model for something, especially one that forms the basis of a methodology or theory.* One definition, and one that truly captures my message for today, is “*a typical example of something.*”

Since we are expected by God to be His widow display then we are to be **People of Influence**. The only way that can happen is by following ***The Kings Paradigm; His pattern.*** Jesus is that

paradigm or pattern; His life is our model for being a **A Person of Influence** in our world. In our text for today Jesus spells out that *paradigm for becoming A Person of Influence.*

This *paradigm is found* in His famous *Sermon on the Mount*. Here He tells us what it takes to become **A Person of Influence**.

[Read Matt. 5:3-12/Pray/Dismiss Jr. Church]

A paradigm is an example that serves as a model for something, in this case a model of what it takes to be **A Person of Influence** for the King. As Christians we are expected to be nothing less than **People of Influence**. Jesus is our role model.

A role model catches the eye of those around them who are looking for answers for spiritual questions. They will look for someone with a different kind of life. It may be their loving smile and accepting attitude. It may be their family and their awesome kids. It may be the wisdom they display in managing the intricacies of business relationships with high integrity. There is something different about an authentic Christian life that is intriguing and attractive to those who are looking for answers to life’s most difficult questions.

When Jesus came into the world His very presence stood in stark contrast to the *paradigm* of living at the time. The paradigm of His day was an “*us verse them*” attitude. The rich and famous ran things to serve their own interests and were more or less out of touch with the everyday Joe. The everyday Joe spent the bulk of his time eking out a living while hoping for the Messiah to come and deliver them from the hardships of life.

Jesus' new *paradigm* seemed to answer the questions of the everyday person and threatened the influence and power of the rich and famous.

The idea of the everyday Joe becoming a person of influence was unheard of. So He explained how everyday people who **Repented and became part of the Kingdom** could turn their world upside down for the Kingdom by **Becoming a Person of Influence**.

So what is Jesus' **New paradigm for Becoming a Person of Influence?**

Jesus tells us that if we are going to become a person of influence then we must have...

1. The Right Attitude Vv. 3-5; In the **Beatitudes** we see right away that the stand in stark contrast to the attitudes of even our world today. **Jesus said that we are to be...**

a. **Poor in Spirit** V. 3

i. The first demand is for genuine humility, for the sense of spiritual nakedness and bankruptcy that is awakened by the Holy Spirit when a person sees his nothingness before God.

1. Isaiah cried out, "**Woe unto them,**" when he poured the passion of conviction on Israel (Is. 5:8-23), but when he found himself in the presence of a Holy God he cried, "**Woe is me!**" (Is. 6:1-5)

2. A sense of God's presence deals instantly with the haughty spirit that is so much admired by the world.

ii. If Christians did not have such changed lives, the evils of the present world would simply be reproduced in God's Kingdom.

1. Our attitude of humility stands at the door way to the Kingdom
2. When those who are watching us see us as being humbly authentic it sends a very strong message.
- iii. Humility screams loud in a world that is anything but humble.
 1. Be your own man
 2. Strive for success
 3. Self-promotion
 4. Self-absorbed
 5. Self-serving
 6. These are the ways of our world today
- iv. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "*What you are thunders so loudly, I can't hear what you say to the contrary.*"
 1. Nothing screams louder than the way we live our lives in public
 2. Nothing stands out more than a life of humility

Jesus said that we are to be...

b. **Pressed [mourn] in Soul** v. 4

- i. This beatitude has to do with what we are in our souls when our spiritual nakedness and bankruptcy are revealed
 1. We are plunged into sorrow for sin
 2. The sorrow is for our sin and the sin we see all around
 3. Sin breaks God's heart
 4. Sin should break our hearts; ours as well as those around us
- ii. We mourn over sin and despise it.
 1. We see sin the way God sees it and seek to treat it the way God does.
 2. Those who cover sin or defend sin certainly have the wrong attitude.

3. We should not only mourn over our sins, but we should also meekly submit to Go
- iii. THOSE WHO MOURN -
 1. This doesn't mean Sad Or Negative - Some people enjoy sorrow, they aren't happy unless trouble.
 2. MOURN FOR SIN, Recognizing the impact
 3. A Brokenness over Sin - Alters all over our city should be full today of broken people—people broken if for no other reason than sin they have observed this week
 4. Your attitude toward repentance will determine your inner peace.
 5. Someone who mourns over sin is someone who
 - a. Doesn't laugh at off color jokes
 - b. Doesn't find TV shows and movies that glorify sin as entertaining
 - c. Doesn't cheat or known as a cheater when playing games
 - d. Doesn't take pleasure in someone else's lie or misbehavior
 - e. Doesn't find sin in general fun, pleasurable, entertaining or exciting

Jesus said that we are to be...

- c. **Patient in Strife** V. 5
 - i. Here we are told there will be blessings in store for those who are patient in their circumstances.
 1. They are Meek not Weak
 2. Moses was meek
 3. The Lord was meek
 4. None among us would call either weak
 5. To be meek means to be gentle, patient, not given to anger or resentment.

6. Jesus embodied meekness when He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey instead of a war horse
- ii. Meekness is a quality not admired by the world today
 1. Men are considered meek when they show their famine side—this is not meekness it is feminization
 2. The world sees a meek man is spiritless, spineless and servile
- iii. Jesus promised the meek that **“they shall inherit the earth.”**
 1. When the earth becomes the visible sphere of the Lord's triumph during the millennial age, the meek will be its rulers.
 2. In God's wisdom the cross comes before the crown—and that kind of wisdom is foolishness to men.
- d. **ILL:** "Attitude" is actually a pilots' word. Pilots will tell you that the attitude of your plane has to do with its relationship to the horizon. Other things are variable - terrain, weather, even the pilot's perceptions. But the horizon is the one thing that doesn't move. So you want the nose of your plane properly aligned with that horizon. When it isn't, problems can develop - like friction, for example.

How's my attitude? How's your attitude? It probably depends on how well you're lined up with the horizon. That's "horizon" as in the God you belong to - the fixed point in the midst of all the variables in your life.

- e. **If we have the right attitude then when people watch they will be drawn to Christ.**

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2. **The Right Appetite** V. 6

- a. This 4th beatitude tells us that are apatite should be to be righteous
- b. Hunger and thirst suggest a deep, profound, even painful desire that increases to the point of desperation until it is fed
- c. That is how we are to pursue righteousness—like a hungry man starving for supper, like a woman thirsty after an outdoor run—with an appetite that’s getting more directed and ferocious all the time.
- d. Our hunger for righteousness should be like that—both recurring and ongoing.
 - i. When we eat a sandwich at lunch it may hold us a while but it doesn’t satisfy our hunger for the rest of our lives.
 - ii. As long as we’re growing as Christians, our appetite for righteousness should always keep growing.
 - iii. When we lose our appetite for the Lord and His Kingdom, when we’re just as content with the world’s junk food as we are with the Word of God, those who are watching us will see it
- e. When we have the right appetite people see it:
 - i. Our hunger for God is unquenchable and they see it
 - ii. Our desire to be free from sin will separate us from the crowd and they will know it
 - iii. When we avoid dishonesty and don’t compromise the truth—PEOPLE NOTICE
 - 1. Truthfulness is rare in our day of spin and “every man for himself”
 - 2. We all recognize an overt lie—something that embellishes or changes the facts or rewrites history
 - 3. There is an even more insidious form of lying and that is *Passive dishonesty*

- a. Letting untruth go when someone else is being dishonest or makes a mistake that benefits you
- b. When the payroll department miscalculates your vacation days, and you take the opportunity to get an extra day off with pay by keeping your mouth shut
- 4. True character is best demonstrated by what someone does when no one is looking
- 5. The problem is someone will be looking and then when you step forward to maintain your integrity and honesty they will hear
- 6. They will not only know the truth but spread the truth throughout the entire organization
- f. When we have the right appetite we no longer hold onto the things of this world and people see it.
 - i. If an NFL football games interferences with our Church attendance we skip the game—PEOPLE SEE IT
 - ii. When we make the choice to spend time in God’s Word rather than in our neighbors boat—PEOPLE SEE IT
 - iii. Football and fishing are perfectly harmless but when they get in the way of our pursuit of righteousness and we make the decision to forgo them to pursue that righteousness, then PEOPLE SEE IT
 - g. When we have the right appetite then it will bubble out in our lives and PEOPLE WILL SEE IT
 - h. **ILL:** I'm told that many new babies actually lose a little weight between the time they're born and the checkup they have two weeks later. But not so with all. When we were in Springfield last year for Thanksgiving to see our new granddaughter I found her to be extremely dedicated to eating often and eating a lot. Her mother's milk obviously agrees with her. She was one happy little girl - until it was

time to eat again. At which point she would crank it up and let us know in no uncertain terms, "I'm hungry and I will not be delayed and I will not be denied!" I think that's what she said.

Watching Emma demonstrated to me what this kind of appetite is. It is something that goes beyond grudging fulfilling my Christian duty to read my Bible. It didn't sound to me like Emma was saying, "Well, I know I'm supposed to be getting some milk. I guess it's my duty, I'd better wake everyone up and eat" No it was not duty to her it was an insatiable desire.

i. **When we display this hunger and thirst for God and his righteousness people will see it and be drawn to you for comfort and support**

Finally, Jesus tells us that if we are going to become a person of influence then we must display...

3. The Right Actions V. 7-12. People pay attention to what we say but even more they pay attention to what we do. These last 3 beatitudes deal with **how we should act...**

a. **When Facing Cruelty** V. 7

- i. Mercy is the Gift Given to the guilty
 1. Justice was at the heart and soul of the law; mercy is the heart and soul of the gospel
 2. We experienced God's mercy when we trust Christ (Eph. 2:4-7), and He gives us a clean heart (Acts 15:9) and peace within (Rom. 5:1).
- ii. But having received His mercy, we then are to share His mercy with others
- iii. When answering the question which is the greatest commandment Jesus responded: **"...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great**

commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets"

1. We are to treat others the way the Lord treats us!
 - a. God is merciful....
 - b. God is forgiving....
 - c. God loves us....
 - d. God is patience with us....
2. These are not a matter of feeling, these are a matter willingness:
 - a. We are to be willing to treat others the way God treats us!
 - b. If not willing to forgive others neither is God willing to forgive us
- iv. Even more importantly, however, is everyone who knows we call ourselves a Christian see just how merciful we are toward them and those around us.

Next we see how we should act...

b. **When Facing Corruption** V. 8

- i. In the 6th beatitude Jesus is not only speaking of purity of life, but purity of heart as well.
 1. We are to be pure within, where all the workings of life are found
 2. We are to be able to look out at life with all its corruption and decay, and remain uncontaminated
 3. Making a heart pure calls for a greater miracle than cleansing a leper or raising the dead
- ii. In medieval days monks would flee from corruption of the world to monasteries and cloisters, many of them built in lonely, inaccessible places—often on top of some mountain—and ruled by rigid laws.
- iii. People characterized as pure in heart are:
 1. Morally pure,

2. Honest,
 3. Sincere.
 4. They are people of integrity and single-minded commitment to God.
 5. Moral purity, honesty, and integrity come only through such a commitment.
- iv. People committed totally to God will seek to be morally clean,
 - v. Because of their sincere devotion to Christ, they will see God, here and now through the eyes of faith (Hebrews 11:27), and finally face-to-face (1 John 3:2)
 - vi. When those watching us see that we are **“pure in heart”** they will be drawn to us when they need help and guidance

Then we see how we should act...

c. *When Facing Conflict* V. 9

- i. Peace-makers are a very different kind of people.
 1. They set a guard on their tongue at all times,
 2. They think before they speak,
 3. They are NOT confrontive just for the sake of it.
 4. They don't have to give their opinion all the time,
 5. They are able to walk away quietly and avoid a conflict when the situation calls for it.
 6. They are prepared to tell the truth and trust God for the outcome in order to have a peace that is worthwhile and lasting.
 7. They want REAL peace by resolving the cause of conflict.
- ii. Peace-makers are prepared to put others' well-being above their own comfort level.
- iii. Peace-makers are motivated out of love - real love.

1. If there is any other motivation behind what you are doing or saying then you are NOT acting as a peacemaker.
 2. They are for people, regardless of their appearance, beliefs, behavior or status
- iv. Peace-makers are sharing people
 - v. Peace-makers are compassionate people
 - vi. When you are a peace-maker those watching you will find you easy to approach when they are in need

Finally, we see how we should act...

d. *When Facing Persecution* V. 10-12 we influence people by the way

- i. ***Accept Persecution*** Vv. 10-11
 1. 2 Tim3:12 tells us that all who desire to live a godly life in Christ will be persecuted
 2. Throughout the NT we find that Christians have always and will always face persecution
 3. Imagine a man who accepted a new job in which he had to work with especially profane people. When at the end of the first day his wife asked him how he had managed, he said, **“Terrific! They never guessed I was a Christian.”**
 - a. As long as people have no reason to believe that we are Christians, at least obedient and righteous Christians, we need not worry about persecution.
 - b. But as we manifest the standards of Christ we will share the reproach of Christ.
 - c. Those born only of the flesh will persecute those born of the Spirit.
- ii. ***How we react to Persecution*** V. 12

1. A person can respond one of two ways when it comes to persecution. They can respond carnally or spiritually.
 - a. To respond Carnally
 - i. Retaliation
 - ii. Resentment
 - i. Religious Superiority
 - b. To respond Spiritually means to Realize that it
 - i. Confirms our Relationship
 - ii. Causes Reliance
 - iii. Cultivates Righteousness
 - iv. Confers a Reward
2. And people are watching that you can be sure of

Conclusion: We don't have to numb down our faith to make it attractive. Just the opposite is true. The more Christians we are in our words and our deeds, the more attractive to Jesus our faith is to others.

People are watching you; they are looking at your **Attitude & You Appetite** and watching your **Actions**