

MATTHEW

Heirs of the Kingdom

Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Matthew 5:1-12

⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Matthew 5:1-12

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Outline

1. The ethics of the kingdom
2. The opposition of the world
3. The promise of reward

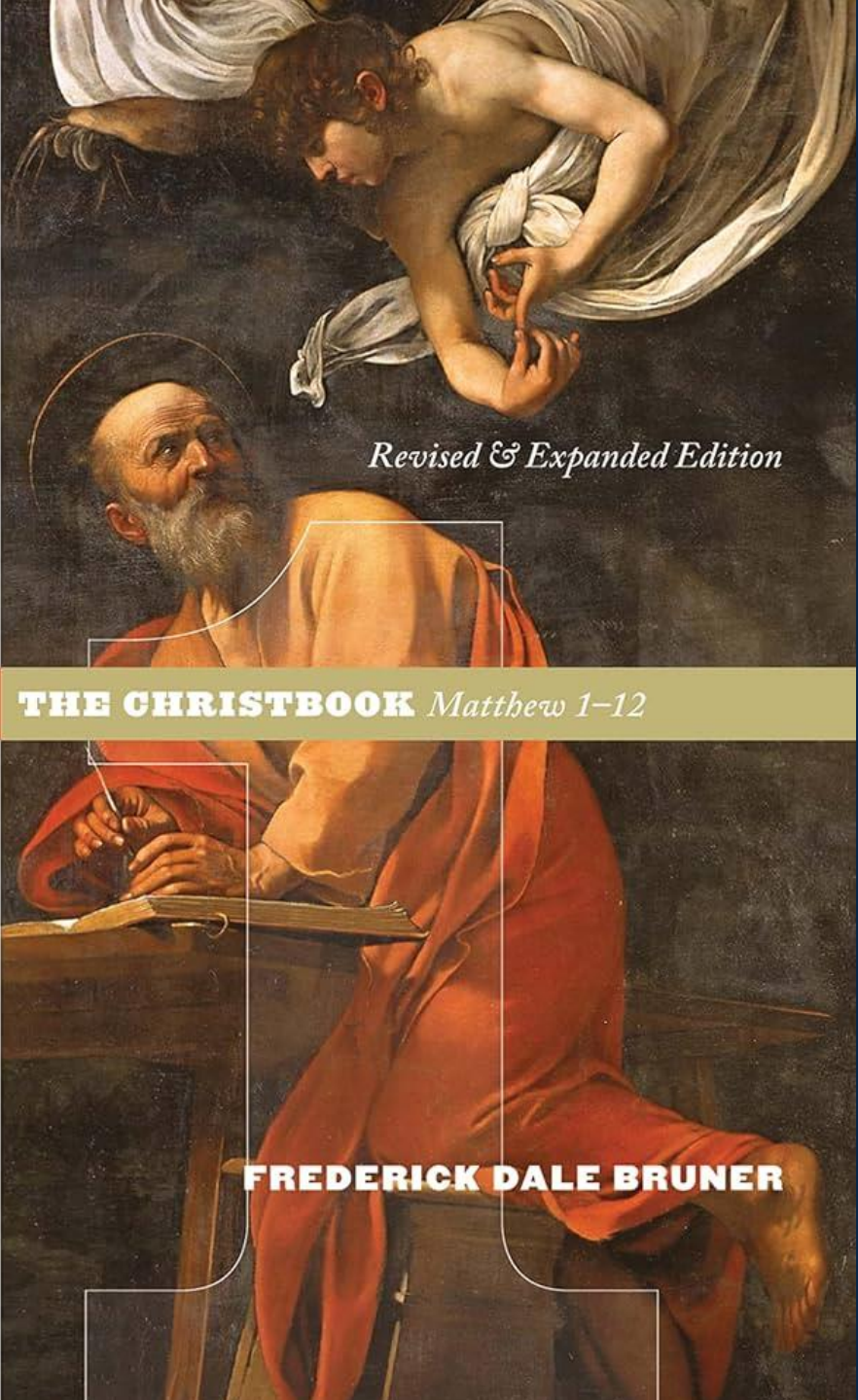
1. The ethics of the kingdom

Matthew 5:9-10

1. The ethics of the kingdom

Righteousness and Peacemakers

- Righteousness = right relationships with God (vertical) and others (horizontal)
- Peace = shalom, wholeness, flourishing



We can almost translate the keyword
'peacemakers' with the world
'wholemakers' . . . biblical *shalom*...
means communal well-being in every
direction and in every relation.

—Frederick Dale Bruner

James 3:13-18

Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace

1. The ethics of the kingdom

Application: Seek to be a Peacemaker on Three Horizons

- Domestic
- Local
- Global

2. The opposition of the world

Matthew 5:10-12

2. The opposition of the world

Doesn't the world also want peace and justice?

- Yes, but this is “borrowed capital” from Christianity

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Doesn't the world also want peace and justice?

- Yes, but this is “borrowed capital” from Christianity
- Peace and justice apart from God's kingdom are always eventually corrupted

2. The opposition of the world

Application

- Don't be surprised at persecution or opposition

1 Peter 4:12-14

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.



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2. The opposition of the world

Application

- Don't be surprised at persecution or opposition
- But, don't develop a "persecution complex"!

3. The promise of reward

Matthew 5:9-12

3. The promise of reward

Promises

- “You shall be called sons of God” (v. 9)
- “Theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (v. 10)
- “Your reward is great in heaven” (v. 12)

THE CHRISTBOOK *Matthew 1–12**Revised & Expanded Edition***FREDERICK DALE BRUNER**

“The future-tense promises of the six ‘middle’ Beatitudes tell us that the kingdom of heaven is mainly future; but the present-tense promises of these ‘bookend’ Beatitudes tell us that the kingdom’s future is so strong that it already impacts the present with joyous anticipation.”

—Frederick Dale Bruner

3. The promise of reward

Command

- “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven” (v. 12)

Hebrews 10:32-36

But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, ³³ sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. ³⁴ For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. ³⁵ Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.

3. The promise of reward

Application

- Rejoice — Jesus commands it!

3. The promise of reward

Application

- Rejoice — Jesus commands it!
- Keep your eyes on the prize!



If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven.



It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth “thrown in”: aim at earth and you will get neither.

—C. S. Lewis

Colossians 1:15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

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