

**The Ultimate Reward**  
**The Kingdom of Heaven**  
*Matthew 5:3, 10, 12, 19, 20*

The Context

The Gospel of Matthew  
The Sermon on the Mount  
The Beatitudes

The Example

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (5:3)

Blessed are those who are persecuted ... for theirs is the kingdom of heaven ... (5:10)

Great is your reward in heaven. (5:12)

Those who practice and teach God's ways will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (5:20)

Those who counter God's ways and teach others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven.  
(5:19)

About rewards as a motivator

It's fundamental  
It's biblical  
It's soon surpassed

About this ultimate reward

It's the future promise  
It's a *now* promise  
It's of unparalleled value

How does the kingdom motivate us?

It orders our priorities  
It assuages our pains  
It encourages endurance  
It promises the best outcomes  
It invites freedom, risk and peace

Related scriptures:

Proverbs 3:34 *God gives grace to the humble ...*

James 4:10 *Humble yourselves before the Lord ...*

1 Peter 1:6 ... *Though for a little while you may have to suffer ...*

1 Peter 4:14 ... *If you are insulted because of Christ, you are blessed ...*

James 1:2 *Consider it pure joy when you face trials ...*

Revelation 20:4 – *The reign of martyrs with Christ*

James 3:1 *Not many should presume to be teachers ... judged more strictly ...*

Ephesians 5:1 *Be imitators of God ...*

Genesis 12:1 – *Reward as covenant promise*

Psalms 19:11 ... *in keeping them there is great reward*

Psalms 25:22 ... *and the Lord will reward you*

Revelation 22:12 *I am coming soon! My reward is with me.*

Matthew 10:8 *Freely you have received; now freely give.*

Acts 20:35 *It's more blessed to give than to receive.*

*Give expecting nothing in return*

Philippians 2:5 *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus ...*

2 Peter 3:13 *We are looking forward to a new heaven ...*

Revelation 1:6 *God has made us to be a kingdom and priests ...*

Philippians 3:20 ... *our citizenship is in heaven ...*

2 Corinthians 4:17 ... *an eternal glory that far outweighs them all*

Matthew 6:33 *Seek first the kingdom of God ...*

Hebrews 12:2 ... *who for the joy set before him endured the cross ...*

Romans 8:17 ... *we share in his suffering in order that we may share in his glory ...*

Romans 8:31 *If God is for us, who can be against us?*