

EXPERIENCING THE KING LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

THE STUDY OF MATTHEW

THE GOOD LIFE: RELATIONSHIPS & REAL ESTATE

MATTHEW 7.1-29

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Prime flats in Kallang Whampoa the most popular in February BTO exercise

The Tanjong Rhu Parc Front project in Kallang Whampoa saw 4,232 applications for 812 BTO flats.



An artist's impression of the Tanjong Rhu Parc Front project in the February 2025 BTO sales exercise. (Image: HDB)



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INTRODUCTION



EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus's playbook for the good life

"Blessed" comes from the Greek *makarios*, synonymous with *eudaimonia*

Can be translated as "happy" or "fortunate" or "flourishing"

Greek philosophers may use it to refer to "the good life"

INTRODUCTION



EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

“Blessed is the man who lives with a sensible wife.”

Sirach 25.8

“Blessed is the man who lives out his life with good children.”

4 Maccabees 18.9

MATTHEW 7.1-12

EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.



MATTHEW 7.1-12



EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

“Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.”

MATTHEW 7.1-12

EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

MATTHEW 7.1-12

EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.



KINGDOM RELATIONSHIPS



EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

Pattern of Mercy (v 1-5)

Pattern of Generosity (v 7-11)

PATTERN OF MERCY



EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Matthew 7.1-2

PATTERN OF MERCY

EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

“Judge” in the negative sense of condemnation

Does not refer to making a judgment or discerning between right and wrong

C.f. Parable of Unforgiving Servant in Matthew 18

C.f. The Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 5

“or you too will be judged (by God)”

God is the implied judge

God is the merciful judge



NEGATIVE EXAMPLES



EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

Marketplace image

measure

implies dishonesty and exploitation

Carpentry image

plank and speck

implies hypocrisy and arrogance

PATTERN OF GENEROSITY



EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

Vision of who God is

God is a loving and generous Father

God is not a Cosmic Vending Machine

PATTERN OF GENEROSITY

EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

“Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*



KINGDOM RELATIONSHIPS



EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

Verses 1-5

horizontal relationships ← vertical relationship

Our mercy ← God's mercy

Verses 7-12

vertical relationship → horizontal relationships

God's generosity → Our generosity

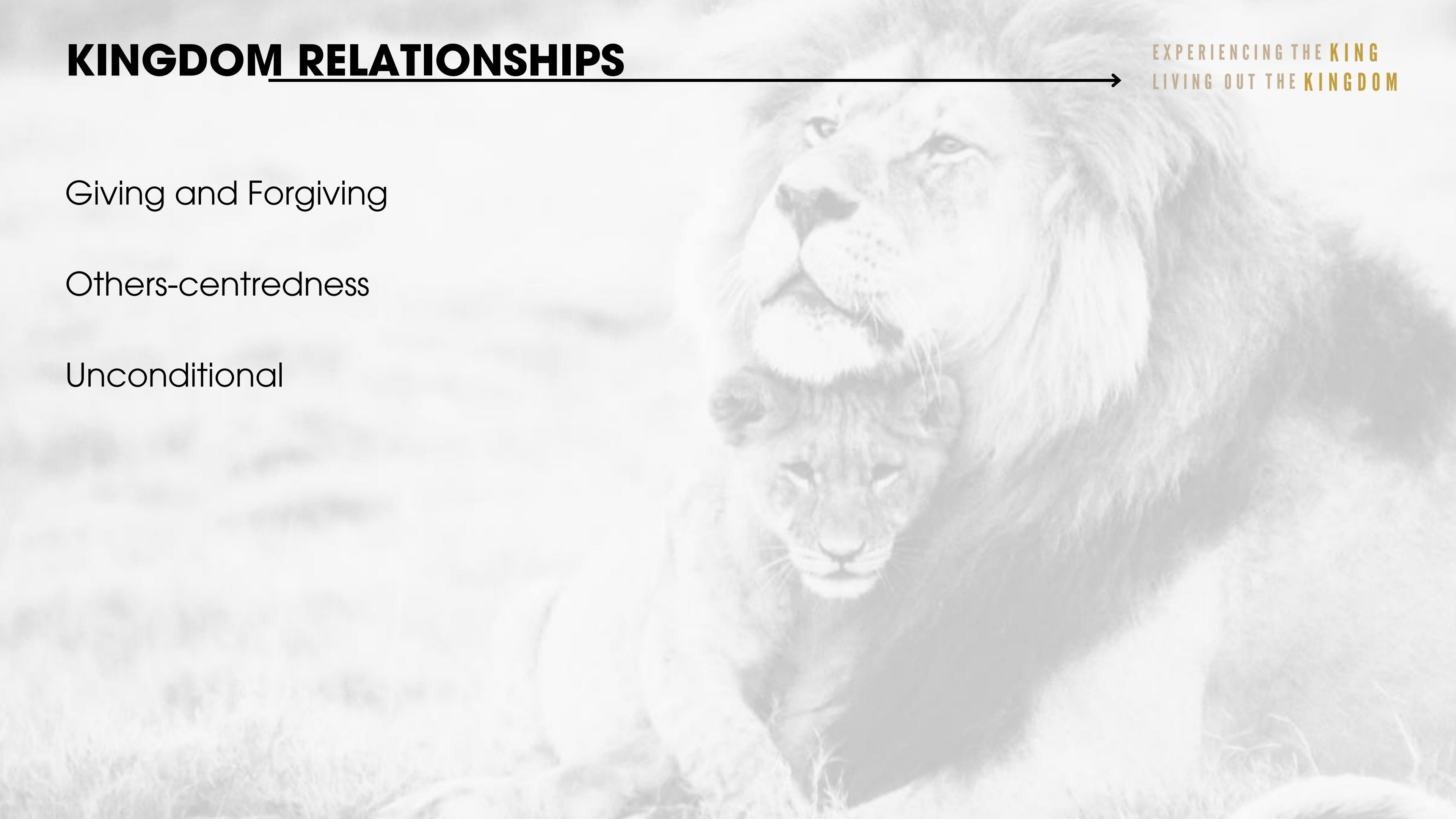
KINGDOM RELATIONSHIPS

EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

Giving and Forgiving

Others-centredness

Unconditional



FACING REJECTION & HOSTILITY

EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

“Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.”

Matthew 7.6



FACING REJECTION & HOSTILITY



EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

“Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you;
reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser;
teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.”

Proverbs 9.8-9

FACING REJECTION & HOSTILITY

A lioness is shown in the foreground, looking towards the left. In the background, a lion cub is visible, looking towards the camera. The image is faded and serves as a background for the text.

EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

“Do not speak in the hearing of a fool,
for he will despise the good sense of your words.”

Proverbs 23.9

FACING REJECTION & HOSTILITY

EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

Verse 6 implies that there will be those who reject our and God's mercy and generosity

Jesus is "holy" and his kingdom a "pearl"
(c.f. Matthew 13.46)

God's mercy and generosity led him to the Cross

God *gives* himself to *forgive* us



MATTHEW 7.13-29



EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

MATTHEW 7.13-29

EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

MATTHEW 7.13-29

EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’



MATTHEW 7.13-29

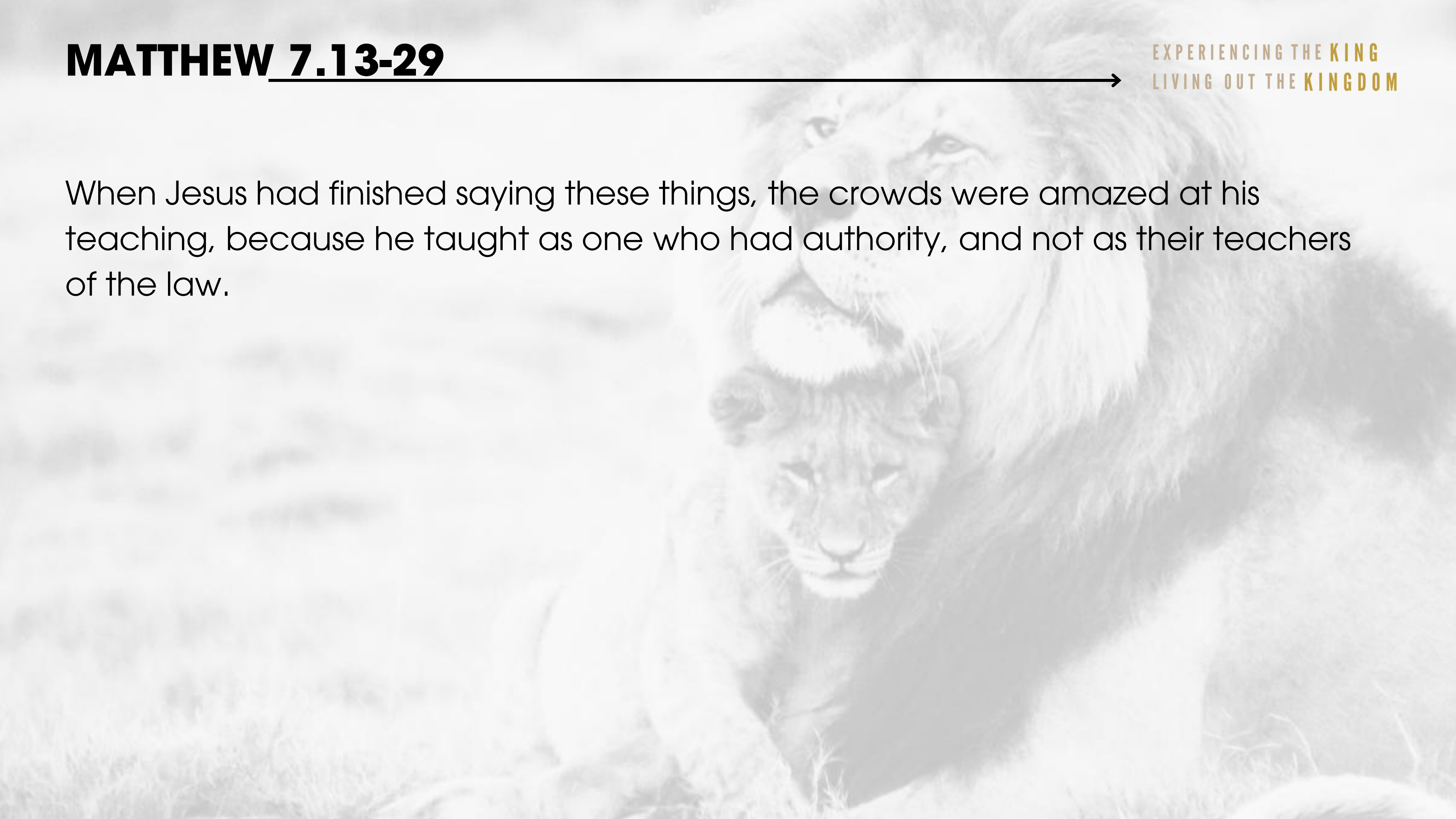
EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

MATTHEW 7.13-29

EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.



CONCLUDING THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

An invitation that requires a decision

Jesus is offering his vision of the good life which touches every aspect of life



COMPETING VISIONS



EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

Jesus challenges all other definitions of success

A life built on houses is a house built on sand

COMPETING VISIONS

A faded background image of a lioness with a cub behind her, looking towards the camera. The lioness is in the foreground, and the cub is slightly behind her, both looking in the same direction.

EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

“Therefore everyone who hears *these words of mine* and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

Matthew 7.24

COMPETING VISIONS

EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

“One in whom there are good works, who has studied much Torah, to what may he be likened? To a person who builds first with stones and afterward with brick; even when much water comes and collects by their side, it does not dislodge them.”

Elisha ben Abuyah (ca. 120)



BEYOND APPEARANCES



EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

The two houses appear same

The final storm of God's judgment and justice will reveal the truth behind the appearances

MATTHEW 7.24

EXPERIENCING THE KING
LIVING OUT THE KINGDOM

“Therefore everyone who

hears these words of mine and

puts them into practice

is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house;

yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”