

Sermon on the Mount

“The Beatitudes”

Roxborough Bible Chapel

February 3, 2019

Sermon on the Mount – Introduction

- **Matthew 5:1-12 – The Beatitudes**
- 1 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.
- 2 Then 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.
- 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 filled.
- 7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain 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.
- 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.
- 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Sermon on the Mount – Introduction

- Blessed (Happy)
 - Happy, fortunate, blissful, a well-being that belongs only to the faithful, more than just a surface emotion
 - World’s ideas of happiness is found in riches, merriment, abundance, life of leisure, etc.
 - Wealth, good spouse, and children, etc.
 - Power, fame, life of pleasure, no suffering, non-stop satisfaction, etc.
 - People respect us, we are accomplishing our goals, we are being entertained, etc.
 - Don’t we all pursue happiness at all times?
 - **God’s idea of happiness is just the opposite.**
Listen to what Jesus says in these beatitudes!

Matthew 5:3 - Blessed *are* the poor in spirit

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- **Poor in Spirit**
 - Being a spiritual beggar, having an attitude of deep humility recognizing our total dependence on God for everything: our salvation spiritually (forgiveness of our sins resulting in an eternity with our Savior), every breath we take physically, his grace in every situation, etc.
- **Kingdom of heaven**
 - Our present and future home for eternity with the King of kings (our Lord Jesus Christ) in heaven

Matthew 5:4 - Blessed *are* those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.

- **Those who mourn**
 - **Sadness because of our sinful state, utterly consumed with grief, understanding how sin saddens the heart of God, sorrow because of this world's condition and rejection of the Savior and the fate of those who refuse His mercy, true repentance (continual sadness, not just when we are "born again"), recognizing that we are spiritually terminally ill**
- **They shall be comforted**
 - **Recognizing that we are at peace with God having been justified by faith in the Lord Jesus, knowing that God will wipe away every tear from our eyes in heaven**

Matthew 5:5 - Blessed *are* the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.

- **Meek**
 - **Gentle, acceptance of one's lowly position, strong on the inside and yet giving/lovingly deferring or yielding one's rights to others, strength under control**
- **Inherit the earth**
 - **When Christ comes back and establishes His earthly kingdom, the gentle will “inherit the earth” and reign with Him in peace and prosperity for a 1000 years someday – because they are joint heirs with Christ.**

Matthew 5:6 - Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
For they shall be filled.

- **Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness**
 - **A passion, a non-stop, intense hunger and thirst for honesty, integrity, justice, holiness which can only be found in the Lord Jesus Christ, totally contrary to pursuing his/her own interests and desires, seeking first the kingdom of God**
- **They shall be filled**
 - **They are promised satisfaction. These people will be abundantly satisfied in Christ's coming kingdom: they shall be filled, for righteousness will reign and corruption will give way to the highest moral standards.**

**Matthew 5:7 - Blessed *are* the merciful,
For they shall obtain mercy.**

- **Merciful**
 - **To be actively compassionate**
 - **To withhold punishment from offenders who deserve it.**
 - **To help others who cannot help themselves**
 - **Imitating God when He showed us mercy by sparing us from the judgment which our sins deserved through the saving work of Christ.**
- **Obtaining mercy**
 - **Not the mercy of salvation which is God's unconditional free gift to a believing sinner**
 - **This is the daily mercy needed for Christian living as we go through various trials**

Matthew 5:8 - Blessed *are* the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

- Pure in heart
 - One who has a pure life (Pure actions, a pure will (desires), a pure thought life, pure emotions - which are all concepts of what the heart is)
 - The Greek word, *kathapos*, for “pure” has the idea of 100% clean.
 - Example: The healing of a leper
 - Matthew 8:2-3 ²And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." ³Then Jesus put out *His* hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.
 - This is Jesus' idea of a pure heart – a heart purged from sin.
 - We are clean when we believe God – when we are constantly depending on Him – when we are constantly committing ourselves to Him by faith. It is then that we have clean hearts.
 - In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus repeatedly tells the crowd it is not the outside that counts with God, but it is the inside.
 - Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.
 - Psalm 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.
 - If you are not a Christian, your heart can be made clean if you will ask God to spiritually clean your heart – just like the leper who pleaded to be made clean.

Matthew 5:8 - Blessed *are* the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

- “For they shall see God” – They will?
 - How can this be, since no one has seen God at any time, He is a spirit and He is invisible?
 - John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.
 - I John 4:12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.
 - John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.
 - Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
- “For they shall see God” - What does this mean?
 - One potential meaning is through fellowship in the Word and the Spirit
 - One potential meaning is that one has a supernatural appearance or vision presented to them.
 - One potential meaning is that they shall see God in the person of Jesus when He comes again.
 - One potential meaning is that they shall see God in eternity.
 - I Corinthians 13:12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.
 - Psalm 24:3-4 ³Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? ⁴He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.

Matthew 5:8 - Blessed *are* the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

(Scriptures relating to the term “For they shall see God”)

- **Exodus 33:9-11** ⁹And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood *at* the door of the tabernacle, and *the LORD* talked with Moses. ¹⁰All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing *at* the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man *in* his tent door. ¹¹So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.
- **Numbers 12:5-8** ⁵Then the LORD came down in the pillar of cloud and stood *in* the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam. And they both went forward. ⁶Then He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, *I*, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. ⁷Not so with My servant Moses; He *is* faithful in all My house. ⁸I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?"
- **Exodus 33:20-23** ²⁰But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." ²¹And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. ²²So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. ²³Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen."

Matthew 5:9 - Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

- **Peacemakers**
- **After reading the Sermon on the Mount, some have thought that Jesus was a pacifist – someone who yielded to everyone. Why?**
- **Was Jesus a pacifist? Listen to Him in Matthew 10:34:**
 - **Matthew 10:34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.**
- **These are words that can incite anger. If Jesus is not a pacifist, what does He mean by “peacemaker”?**
- **The Greek word has the idea of “one who restores peace, favors good understanding, settles quarrels and stops conflicts.” It was a word used only of emperors who bring about peace. A peacemaker is one who comes alongside, who seeks to understand the reasons of the conflict and helps two people to come to peace.**
- **God only gives peace to those He favors**
 - **Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" NKJV**
 - **Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased. ASV**
- **What kind of peace does God give us?**
 - **Luke 7:48-50 48Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." 49And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" 50Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."**

Matthew 5:9 - Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

- For they shall be called sons of God
- When God forgets your sins, He calls you a child or son of God
 - John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:
 - Galatians 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
- Conclusion
- Now if Christians are peacemakers, then the opposite must also be true.
- Those who are always angry and those who create disunity and conflict must not be sons of God.
 - Do you have the attitude of an “eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth”? Do you hate an enemy or take others to court? Do you keep a record of wrongs done to you? Is Romans 12:17-18 true of you,
 - Romans 12:17-18 ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.
- Are you a son of God? If you are, peace will not always be possible because people will sometimes hate us because we speak God’s truth and desire to be holy like God
 - II Timothy 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
- The ultimate test that you are a son of God, a real peacemaker, is when you seek to make peace between men and women and God,
 - James 3:18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.
- A true son of God wants others to find peace with God through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.
- Is your life characterized by being a peacemaker?

Matthew 5:10-12 10Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

12Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- **Introduction**
- **Men and women of all ages and classes have suffered as Christians.**
- **These two beatitudes promise Christians who have suffered for Jesus down through time a great reward in heaven.**
- **In these two beatitudes, Jesus makes it clear that true Christians will suffer for holiness and because they follow Jesus.**

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- **Persecution For Righteousness**
- **Jesus is talking about suffering for righteous conduct. Sometimes we suffer not because of righteousness but because of our own sin and bad conduct towards others.**
 - **I Peter 3:17 For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.**
- **He is talking about those who are persecuted for holy living.**
 - **II Timothy 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**
- **God does not say that we must BE living a holy life. He says we will suffer if we DESIRE to live a godly life.**
- **I Peter 1:16 because it is written, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."**
- **He says that He wants us to be like Him.**
- **God wants your heart. He wants our heart to desire to be holy like Him. Flee sin by being filled with the Holy Spirit and by pursuing Him. Why do others hate Christians?**
- **When we refuse to be evil, we are persecuted in different ways. Sometimes it is physical. Sometimes it is not.**

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¹¹"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

¹²Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- **Insults And Persecution**
- **The last beatitude in the Sermon on the Mount includes another form of persecution: curses, insults with insulting, evil language, and mockings.**
- **History says that John Huss (A.D. 1415) was burned at the stake because he believed the Bible was infallible, authoritative and supreme. He declared that Christ was the head of the church.**
 - **Before he died he was urged to recant, and he replied, "What I taught with my lips, I seal with my blood."**
- **Many other examples of persecution which is growing in today's world!**
- **Heaven With A Reward**
- **Many Christians since the time of Jesus have feared all forms of persecution.**
- **Christians do not like insults, rebukes, slander, anger, bad reports, rejection and persecution. This has always been true. It was true of Jesus' disciples, and it was true of Joseph of Arimathea,**
 - **John 19:38 After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave *him* permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus.**
- **It has always been scary to be a Christian. After Jesus had been arrested, scripture says Peter denied that he even knew Jesus three times (John 18:15-27).**

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- **Conclusion**
- **True Christians will suffer. The Lord does not want us to be a secret disciple. The early church prayed for boldness.**
 - **Acts 4:29** Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,
- **They prayed for boldness during persecution. They did not ask for it to stop. They ask for boldness to keep going. They chose suffering. But when it became intense, Acts 8:1 says they fled.**
 - **Acts 8:1** Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.
- **They fled preaching the gospel just as Jesus had told His disciples (Matt 10:23).**
 - **Matthew 10:23** When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. For assuredly, I say to you, you will not have gone through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.
- **We need to ask the Holy Spirit for boldness to live a righteous life.**
 - **Acts 4:31** And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.
- **We need to commit ourselves to be bold and accept suffering for Jesus. Pray that God gives us boldness to not give up and renounce our faith, or yield to the spirit of tolerance, or anything that is contrary to holiness, truth and the pursuit of being like Jesus Christ.**
- **Imagine the great rewards that await us along with the other saints!**

Match the Beatitude! (God vs. the World)

- The world's beatitude says:
- Blessed are those who feel good about themselves and their independence, take pride in who they are and their accomplishments
- Resulting in ("For theirs is:"):
- For theirs is a good status amongst their peers and society (fueling their pride even further, helping them to feel even better about themselves)
- But God says the results of this world's thinking is:
- I Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.
- Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

- God's beatitude (Matthew 5:3) says:
- Blessed are the poor in spirit
- Resulting in ("For theirs is:"):
- For theirs is the kingdom of heaven

- Beatitudes
- 1. Poor in spirit
- 2. Mourn
- 3. Meek
- 4. Hunger and thirst after righteousness
- 5. Merciful
- 6. Pure in heart
- 7. Peacemakers
- 8. Persecuted for righteousness sake

Matthew 5:3 - Blessed *are* the poor in spirit

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- **Poor in Spirit**
 - Being a spiritual beggar, having an attitude of deep humility recognizing our total dependence on God for everything: our salvation spiritually (forgiveness of our sins resulting in an eternity with our Savior), every breath we take physically, his grace in every situation, etc.
- **Kingdom of heaven**
 - Our present and future home for eternity with the King of kings (our Lord Jesus Christ) in heaven

Notes