

Sermon on the Mount

“The Beatitudes”

Roxborough Bible Chapel

February 17, 2019

Sermon on the Mount – Introduction

- Introduction
 - The Sermon on the Mount (SOM) is (arguably) the most quoted section of the Bible, next to the Ten Commandments.
 - It contains the Beatitudes, the Golden Rule, the Lord's Prayer, etc.
 - This sermon is also recorded in the gospel of Luke (Luke 6:17-49). Between the two records, Matthew contains more of the sermon. These are remarkably similar and yet Luke's account is much shorter. It is possible, of course, that Jesus preached the same sermon on more than one occasion.
 - It was addressed to the disciples. Both Matthew and Luke appear to indicate that he separated Himself from the multitudes
 - Even though obeying the principles of God's Word has its benefits for all (saved and unsaved), these principles were specifically addressed to His disciples. Their attitudes and obedience to His principles would have an effect on the world at large and in his way they would be a good witness in getting the gospel out.
 - The passage in Luke indicates that He spent an entire night in prayer prior to His choosing the 12 apostles from His many disciples after which He healed many from the multitude of people after which "He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said..." (Luke 6:20)
 - May we all learn from this the importance of prayer and to have the faith and commitment to God to pray fervently prior to our teaching and interacting with the world and even just other believers.

Sermon on the Mount – The Beatitudes

- **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!**
 - **Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.**

Which of God's beatitudes is opposite to this world's philosophies?
Mismatch the Beatitude! (God vs. the World)

- **This world's philosophy says:**
 - **Blessed are those who are not judged for their beliefs and decisions**
 - **For they will have peace and life will be good.**
- **But God says:**
 - **For they will be wishy-washy**
 - **James 1:8 *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.**

God's Beatitudes (Matthew 5)

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|---|--|
| 1. Poor in spirit (v. 3) | 5. Merciful (v. 7) |
| 2. Mourn (v. 4) | 6. Pure in heart (v. 8) |
| 3. Meek (v. 5) | 7. Peacemakers (v. 9) |
| 4. Hunger and thirst for righteousness (v. 6) | 8. Persecuted for righteousness sake (vv. 10-12) |

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.

- **Persecuted – verse 10**
 - **Ongoing, non-stop persecution that hurts body and pride.**
 - **Being actively pursued and persecuted.**
 - **The persecutors are still seeking to hurt you.**
 - **Persecuted because you have tried to live a holy life – to do what Jesus wants of you**
 - **Jesus is talking about suffering for righteous conduct**
 - **We will suffer if we DESIRE to live a godly life (desiring to be like Jesus).**
 - **Desiring to flee immorality, sensuality, anger, and disputes and greed, strife, gossip, disobedience to parents, and haters of God**
- **Persecuted – verse 11**
 - **Another form of persecution: curses, insults with insulting, evil language, and mockings.**
- **Our reward is in heaven!**

Which of God's beatitudes is opposite to this world's philosophies?
Mismatch the Beatitude! (God vs. the World)

- **This world's philosophy says:**
 - **Blessed are those who think highly of themselves and their position in life, having a strong desire to move up in the world taking advantage of one's rights at even potentially the expense of others**
 - **For theirs is a better place at the job and in society, as well as a respect by all.**
- **But God says:**
 - **For theirs is a humbling and lack of glory**
 - **Daniel 5:20 But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him.**

God's Beatitudes (Matthew 5)

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**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**
 - **We will reign with Jesus for a 1,000 years (II Timothy 2:12; Revelation 20:6). 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.**

Which of God's beatitudes is opposite to this world's philosophies?
Mismatch the Beatitude! (God vs. the World)

- **This world's philosophy says:**
 - **Blessed are those who stand up for and demanding what is right even if it causes dissension separating people because they know what is best**
 - **For theirs is a better peaceful world to live in, teaching others what is right, because, with time, others will see that they were right**
- **But God says:**
 - **For theirs is constant wars and fighting**
 - **James 4:1 Where do wars and fights *come* from among you.? Do *they* not *come* from your *desires for* pleasure that war in your members?**

God's Beatitudes (Matthew 5)

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

- **Peacemakers**

- **one who restores peace, favors good understanding, settles quarrels and stops conflicts.**
- **A peacemaker is one who comes alongside, who seeks to understand the reasons of the conflict and helps two people to come to peace.**
- **One who seeks to make peace between men and women and God**

- **Shall be called the 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.**

Which of God's beatitudes is opposite to this world's philosophies?

Mismatch the Beatitude! (God vs. the World)

- This world's philosophy says:
 - Blessed are those who feel good about themselves and their independence, take pride in who they are and their accomplishments
 - 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:
 - For theirs is destruction and they will be humbled
 - 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 Beatitudes (Matthew 5)

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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**

Which of God's beatitudes is opposite to this world's philosophies? Mismatch the Beatitude! (God vs. the World)

- This world's philosophy says:
 - Blessed are those who continually seek (with an over-whelming desire) for pleasure, fame and fortune
 - For theirs is total satisfaction with no need for anything else.
- But God says:
 - For they will be hungry and wanting, mourning and weeping
 - Luke 12:19-20 19And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." ' 20But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'
 - Luke 6:25 Woe to you who are full, For you shall hunger. Woe to you who laugh now, For you shall mourn and weep.

God's Beatitudes (Matthew 5)

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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.**

Which of God's beatitudes is opposite to this world's philosophies?

Mismatch the Beatitude! (God vs. the World)

- **This world's philosophy says:**

- **Blessed are those who pursue their desires for worldly pleasures, have the "Go for it" attitude independent of God's influence.**
- **For their heart's desires will be satisfied.**

- **But God says:**

- **For theirs is an eternity in hell.**

- Luke 12:19-20 19And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." ' 20But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

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

- **Pure in heart**

- **One who has a pure life – 100% clean (Pure actions, a pure will (desires), a pure thought life, pure emotions - which are all concepts of what the heart is)**
- **a heart purged from sin.**
- **We are clean when we believe God, constantly depending on Him**
- **Christians have pure hearts ONLY because God has removed our sins as far as the east is from the west.**

- **For they shall see God**

- **Fellowship in the Word and the Spirit**
- **a supernatural appearance or vision presented to them.**
- **We shall see God in the person of Jesus when He comes again.**
- **We shall see God in eternity.**

Which of God's beatitudes is opposite to this world's philosophies?

Mismatch the Beatitude! (God vs. the World)

- **This world's philosophy says:**
 - **Blessed are those who can ignore the needs of others since our energy and resources need to be used for our own "moving up in the world".**
 - **For theirs is more power, prestige and a fulfillment of their desires since they were unhindered by others "holding them back"**
- **But God says:**
 - **For theirs is a cursing and a payment for lack of pity**
 - **Psalm 109:16-18 16Because he did not remember to show mercy, But persecuted the poor and needy man, That he might even slay the broken in heart. 17As he loved cursing, so let it come to him; As he did not delight in blessing, so let it be far from him. 18As he clothed himself with cursing as with his garment, So let it enter his body like water, And like oil into his bones.**
 - **II Samuel 12:6 And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity."**

God's Beatitudes (Matthew 5)

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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**

Which of God's beatitudes is opposite to this world's philosophies?
Mismatch the Beatitude! (God vs. the World)

- **This world's philosophy says:**
 - **Blessed are those who are happy ignoring/forgetting about the failures and sins of the past.**
 - **For theirs is good mental health conducive to making friends with people and living a comfortable, trouble free life**
- **But God says:**
 - **For theirs is mourning and weeping**
 - **Luke 6:25 Woe to you who are full, For you shall hunger. Woe to you who laugh now, For you shall mourn and weep.**

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**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**