

The Gospel According to Matthew

Study # 6

Chapter 5:1-12

The Beatitudes (Matt. 5:1-12)

The Beatitudes

There are eight beatitudes in Matthew chapter 5. The beatitudes describe the character of the true child of the God. By nature, man is totally depraved and he does not have the qualities found in The Beatitudes. He is proud, boastful, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful, etc. (Rom. 1:29-31). The characteristics found in The Beatitudes are produced by the Holy Spirit in the child of God upon conversion and during sanctification. In Galatians 5:22-23, we read that "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control". The word "blessed" means "happy."

The First Beatitude

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 5:3)

To be poor in spirit means to be humble; to have a broken and contrite heart over one's sins; to feel insufficient and utterly dependent on the Lord for grace and mercy. The kingdom of heaven belongs to these and not to the proud and haughty:

"The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit." (Psalm 34:18)

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise." (Psalm 51:17)

"For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones." (Isaiah 57:15)

"Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 18:2-4)

"And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'" (Luke 18:13)

"Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes." (Job 42:6)

"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God." (2 Cor. 3:5)

The Second Beatitude

"Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted." (Matt. 5:4)

When a believer sins, he has "godly sorrow" (2 Cor. 7:9-10). He is grieved in his spirit and mourns. David is an example (See Psalm 51). God promises comfort to those who mourn:

"You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness." (Psalm 30:11)

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified." (Isaiah 61:1-3)

"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (Rev. 21:4)

The Third Beatitude

"Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth." (Matt. 5:5)

The meek are the humble ones. Webster defines meek as "mild of temper; soft; gentle; not easily provoked or irritated; yielding; given to forbearance under injuries." Christ was meek. He says in Matthew 11:28-29:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Matt. 11:28-29)

Moses was the meekest man on all the earth:

"Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth." (Num. 12:3)

God promises that the meek shall one day inherit the earth. They will inherit the new earth where righteousness dwells (2 Peter 3:13). This promise is also found in Psalm 37:11.

The Fourth Beatitude

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." (Matt. 5:6)

The believer is hungering and thirsting each day to be more like Christ and to be more holy. He longs to see others following Christ and for righteousness to be in the world. He has godly indignation when he sees wickedness in the world (Psalm 119:53).

"Indignation has taken hold of me because of the wicked, who forsake Your law." (Psalm 119:53)

"As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?" (Psalm 42:1-2)

"O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water." (Psalm 63:1)

"For He satisfies the longing soul, And fills the hungry soul with goodness." (Psalm 107:9)

The Fifth Beatitude

"Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy." (Matt. 5:7)

The child of God is to be merciful to others because He first obtained mercy from the Lord:

"Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do." (Col. 3:12-13)

"And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses." (Mark 11:25)

"With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; With a blameless man You will

show Yourself blameless." (Psalm 18:25)

The Sixth Beatitude

"Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God." (Matt. 5:8)

By nature, our hearts are "deceitful and desperately wicked" (Jer. 17:9). Upon conversion, God gives us a new heart (Ezek. 36:26). One day the pure in heart shall see God (Rev. 22:4).

"Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully." (Psalm 24:3-4)

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them." (Ezek. 36:26-27)

"They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads." (Revel. 22:4)

The Seventh Beatitude

"Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God." (Matt. 5:9)

The child of God has "peace with God" (Rom. 5:1). God commands us to leave peaceably with all men:

"If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men." (Rom. 12:18)

"Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another." (Rom. 14:19)

"Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." (Heb. 12:14)

The Eight Beatitude

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matt. 5:10-12)

Being persecuted for Christ is a privilege and we should rejoice that we are counted worthy to suffer for His name:

"Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also." (John 15:20)

"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse." (Rom. 12:14)

"Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution." (2 Tim. 3:12)

"Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified." (1 Peter 4:12-14)

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