**Blessed Are…**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday August 27th, 2023

Text: Matthew 5:3-12 Scripture Reading: Revelation 21:3-7

Intro

1. Matthew 5:3-12: The “Beatitudes of Jesus” as they are commonly called define 8 characteristics Jesus’ followers are to have.
2. *What is a “Beatitude?”*
   1. The word “beatitude” is transliterated from the Latin *“beatus”* which is equivalent to the English word “blessed,” translated from the Greek word *makarios (G3107).*
3. Jesus, the Master Teacher, taught the sermon on the mount and at the end of it His audience recognized true authority, “When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes” (Matthew 7:28-29)
   1. In it the King summarizes the character and conduct expected of His subjects!
   2. These are not merely lofty ideals, but they have been lived in the past, expected of Jesus’ followers today, and exemplified by Jesus Himself.
4. We will focus on how they were lived in the past and how we are expected to live them today!
5. **“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”**
   * 1. **Matthew 5:3:** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
        1. “The poor in spirit!” – Not the poor in the world, devoid of material possessions.
        2. It means “convicted of one's own spiritual poverty,” “empty of heart.”
     2. **King David**
        + 1. II Samuel 12:13: When he was confronted with his sin with Bathsheba (which included coveting his neighbor’s wife, adultery, and the murder of her husband – II Samuel chapter 11), he said, “I have sinned against the LORD” (II Samuel 12:13).
          2. Psalm 51:16-17: For his sin, he recognized no sacrifice was enough or he would have offered it, but the sacrifice God demands is “a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart.”
     3. **You**
        + 1. II Corinthians 7:9-11: Godly sorrow leads to repentance while worldly sorrow (sorry for getting caught) leads to death.
          2. I Timothy 1:15: Paul’s heart was that he was the “foremost sinner” (that is the chief sinner)
     4. **The Results**
        1. “Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven!”
        2. Matthew 4:17: The Kingdom of Heaven was preached to be “at hand.”
        3. Those in the kingdom are under the kingly rule of Christ (Col. 1:13, 18; I Tim. 6:15)
        4. The kingdom is a present spiritual kingdom and a future eternal kingdom
           1. Colossians 1:13: The “church,” the present manifestation of the “kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 16:18)
           2. Involves the “new heavens and new earth” in the kingdom's future and eternal manifestation – Mt. 25:34; II Pet. 1:10,11; 3:13; Rev. 21-22
     5. Note that the first (Matthew 5:3) and last (Matthew 5:10) beatitudes include this expression:
        1. Just as the kingdom is both present and future, we shall observe that the blessings described involve both present and future!
     6. To inherit the Kingdom of Heaven, both present and future, we must be “poor in spirit!”
6. **“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted”**
7. **Matthew 5:4:** “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”
   1. “Those who mourn!”
   2. “Mourn” literally means “to bewail, lament, mourn for” *(G3996 pentheo).*
   3. Not speaking about the mourning one does over the loss of a loved one, but rather Jesus is advocating “godly sorrow” or shame over one's sins (II Cor. 7:10-11; Js. 4:8-9).
      * + 1. *Note the relationship between these first two characteristics:* Unless one is first “poor in spirit” they will not “mourn” over their spiritual poverty.
8. **King David**
   1. II Samuel 12:13: “I have sinned against the LORD”
   2. Psalm 38:18: David wrote, “For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin.”
   3. Psalm 51:3-4, 11: “My sin is ever before me.” He asks God not to cast him away or remove the Holy Spirit from him.
9. **You**
   1. James 4:8-9: Mourn over the cause of your separation from God.
   2. James 4:10: Repenting of sin, you have the assurance of forgiveness, therefore, consolation and peace are the results!
10. **The Results**
    * + 1. “They shall be comforted!”
    1. They are comforted by God – II Cor. 1:3-7
11. To have the “comfort” of Heaven we must mourn our sins and make our lives right with God!
12. **“Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth”**
13. **Matthew 5:5:** “Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.”
    1. “The gentle!” (KJV, NKJ: “Meek”)
    2. The word “gentle” or “meek” carries the idea of both gentleness as well as strength.
    3. ***It is strength under control!***
14. **King David**
    1. Psalm 37:11, 29: David links humility and righteousness together as those in contrast of the wicked (37:8-10) who will inherit the land. The wicked will be cut off.
    2. It is the humble who trust in the Lord and do not seek out their own vengeance (37:3-8, 39-40) – Strength under control is to submit to God and wait for His vindication! *(Perhaps David remembered his being stopped from carrying out his own vengeance – I Sam. 25)*
    3. Jesus, in His sermon on the mount, reiterates David’s conclusion about the humble!
15. **You**
    1. Colossians 3:12: Saints are to “put on” gentleness/meekness!
    2. Philippians 4:5: All saints are to have a “gentle spirit,” that is towards God and others! – Share an attribute of God!
    3. James 4:6: God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.
16. **The Results**
    * + 1. “They shall inherit the earth!”
    1. This does not mean they will obtain all that is in the earth, IE: oil wells, houses, businesses, etc… In one sense, they inherit it now
    2. Ecclesiastes 5:19-6:2: Though they may have less than some who are wicked, God enables them to enjoy the fruits of their labor!
17. To enjoy the earth we live in now we must be gentle/meek/humble, satisfied with the fruits of our labor!
18. **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied”**
19. **Matthew 5:6:** “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”
    1. “Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness!”
    2. Hunger and thirst (starving) are considered to be some of the strongest appetites or desires of mankind.
    3. This beatitude recognizes that man needs more than food and drink for the body (Mt. 4:4).
20. **King David**
    1. Psalm 19:9-14: God’s word and commands are “more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.” In keeping them there is great reward!
    2. Psalm 63:1: “My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water.”
21. **You**
    1. Philippians 3:8-11: Filled with the righteousness which we so desperately need, found only in Christ (Mt. 6:33: Requires us to “seek” Him first!)
22. **The Results**
23. “They shall be satisfied (NKJ: “filled”)!”
    1. Psalm 34:10: David wrote, “The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing.”
24. To be filled with the glory of Christ we must “hunger and thirst” for righteousness!
25. **“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy”**
    * 1. **Matthew 5:7:** “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”
         1. “The merciful!”
         2. Mercy is the loving response of compassion that relieves the hurt, assists the downtrodden, and forgives the sinner *(the “Good Samaritan” – Luke 10).*
            1. Trait of God – Ex. 33:19; Rom. 9:15: God revealed Himself to Moses as compassionate.
            2. Trait of Jesus – Heb. 2:17-18: Merciful and faithful High Priest
            3. As children of God we have received mercy – I Pet. 2:10
      2. **King David**
         1. David was chosen by God to succeed King Saul. Many ancient kings wiped out the king’s family before them (Jonathan understood this – I Samuel 20:13-15, 42).
         2. David could have done so but he made a promise to Jonathan.
         3. II Samuel 9:1-13: David sought out Jonathan’s son, Mephibosheth, and showed him compassion, and thus had mercy on the house of Saul.
      3. **You**
         1. Col. 3:12-14: Put on, or clothe yourselves, with hearts of compassion (forgiving as Christ forgave!) – Must show “Compassion” towards others.
         2. Jude 1:21-23: We are to show mercy to the lost and weak in faith!
      4. **The Results**
         1. “They shall receive mercy!”
         2. Psalm 103:8-13: God “is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness”… “Just as a father has compassion on his children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.”
         3. James 2:13: If we are merciful, we shall obtain mercy. But if not show mercy, will not receive mercy! *(Jesus said this in Mt. 18:21-35)*
      5. To obtain mercy on the Judgment Day we need to show mercy to others!
26. **“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God”**
27. **Matthew 5:8:** “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”
    1. “The pure in heart!”
    2. To be pure in heart is to sincerely serve God in holiness, without hypocrisy.
28. **King David**
    1. I Samuel 13:14: King Saul was removed from being king and God replaced him with David, who was “a man after His own heart.”
    2. Psalm 24:3-4: Those with clean hands and are pure of heart will see God!
    3. Psalm 51:10: “Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.”
29. **You**
    1. I John 3:3: Citizens of the Kingdom (saints) are to exhibit this purity because God is pure.
    2. I Timothy 1:5: We are to love from a pure heart, free of hypocrisy!
    3. II Timothy 2:22: Paul wrote, “flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”
30. **The Results** 
    * + 1. “They shall see God!”
    1. I John 3:2-3: In the future hope and faith will be realized and we shall see him face to face!
31. To see God we must love (both God and men) and serve Him from a pure heart!
32. **“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God”**
33. **Matthew 5:9:** **“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”**
    1. “The peacemakers!” “Peaceful”
    2. The peace that is found in the Lord is far different from the kind of peace ordinarily sought by the world.
    3. The world thinks in terms of no war, no financial worries, or no sickness and trouble.
    4. Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful” (John 14:27).
34. **King David**
35. II Samuel 3:12-21: King David, as king of Judah from Hebron, made peace with Abner, Saul’s former general and now the general of Saul’s son King Ishbosheth. He was willing to trust the man and make him general over all his army once he was king over all Israel.
36. II Samuel 19:13-14: King David, after his son’s Absalom’s rebellion was defeated, made peace with Absalom’s general, Amasa, who was a nephew of David’s (I Chr. 2:16-17). He planned to replace Joab (Also David’s nephew – I Chr. 2:16) with Amasa.
37. **You**
    1. Romans 12:18: “If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.”
    2. II Timothy 2:22: “Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”
    3. Hebrews 12:14: “Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.” *(David was an example of loving his enemies – Matthew 5:44)*
38. **The Results**
    * + 1. “They shall be called sons of God!”
    1. Romans 8:14: “For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”
    2. Galatians 3:26: “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”
39. To be children of God we must pursue peace with all men, even our enemies!
40. **“Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”**
41. **Matthew 5:10-12:** “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”
42. “Those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness!”
43. **King David** 
    1. I Samuel 17:26-29: Persecuted and accused by his brothers!
    2. I Samuel 18:9-12: Persecuted by Saul who tried to kill him twice! (Before he went on the run)
    3. II Samuel 3:37-39: Persecuted by Joab and his brothers for wanting to pursue peace with Abner. David was innocent of Abner’s death at Joab and Abishai’s hands (3:30)
    4. II Samuel 15:10-14; 16:5-8: Persecuted by his son Absalom, and Shimei, who cursed him.
    5. Psalm 9:13; 25:19: David’s enemies afflicted him and hated him with a violent hatred!
44. **You**
    1. II Timothy 3:12: Those who choose to live godly will be persecuted!
    2. I Peter 4:12-19: Suffering for Righteousness sake means one has entrusted their soul to a faithful Creator in doing what is right according to the will of the Father, and is to glorify God in the name of Christian!
45. **The Results**
    1. “The Kingdom of Heaven!”
    2. So it comes full circle: the first (5:3) and last (5:10) “beatitudes” include this reward!
    3. Romans 8:18: Nothing in this world, no amount of suffering, can compare to the glory to be revealed!
    4. Revelation 21:7: The one who overcomes will inherit the Kingdom of God and the eternal rest!
46. To inherit the Kingdom of Heaven we must overcome the trials of life and endure persecution!

**Conclusion**

* + 1. *Is the kingdom of heaven worth the effort to develop such qualities of character?*
    2. *Is the kingdom of heaven worth whatever persecution we might endure?*
       1. Philippians. 3:7-11: Paul says a resounding, “YES!” Obtaining Christ is worth whatever price we must pay in this life!
       2. He “suffered the loss of all things” to gain Christ and counted them as “rubbish!” (Garbage)

1. The Lord has provided the necessary instruction for us to grow.
2. Let us strive to be the ideal citizen of the kingdom of heaven!
   1. King David and others have shown us that it is possible to live and practice these teachings of Jesus!
3. If not a Christian, you need to be! If you are poor in spirit, mourning for your sins, hungering for the righteousness that God provides only in Christ, what are you waiting for?
   1. As Ananias told Saul of Tarsus: “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (NKJ: Acts 22:16).
4. If a Christian in error…repent of your sins and be renewed! Seek the Lord with our whole heart!
5. Whatever your requests, let them be known by coming forward ***NOW*** while we stand and sing!

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| **Scripture** | **Beatitudes** | **King David** | **YOU** | **Results** |
| Matthew 5:3 | Blessed are the poor in spirit (empty) | II Samuel 12:13; Psalm 51:16-17 | II Corinthians 7:9-11;  I Timothy 1:15 | …for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Colossians 1:13) |
| Matthew 5:4 | Blessed are those who mourn (shame) | II Samuel 12:13; Psalm 38:18; 51:3-4, 11 | James 4:8-10 | …for they shall be comforted  (II Corinthians 1:3-7) |
| Matthew 5:5 | Blessed are the gentle (meek/humble) | Psalm 37:11, 29 | Colossians 3:12; Philippians 4:5; James 4:6 | …for they shall inherit the earth (Ecclesiastes 5:19-6:2) |
| Matthew 5:6 | Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (starving) | Psalm 19:9-14; 63:1 | Philippians 3:8-11 | … for they shall be satisfied (Psalm 34:10) |
| Matthew 5:7 | Blessed are the merciful (compassion) | II Samuel 9:1-13 | Colossians 3:12-14; Jude 21-23 | …for they shall receive mercy (Psalm 103:8-13; James 2:13) |
| Matthew 5:8 | Blessed are the pure in heart (sincerity) | I Samuel 13:14; Psalm 24:3-4; 51:10 | I John 3:3;  I Timothy 1:5;  II Timothy 2:22 | … for they shall see God  (I John 3:2-3) |
| Matthew 5:9 | Blessed are the peacemakers (peaceful) | II Samuel 3:12-21; 19:13-14 | Romans 12:18; Hebrews 12:14;  II Timothy 2:22 | … for they shall be called sons of God  (Romans 8:14; Galatians 3:26) |
| Matthew 5:10-12 | Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness  (persecuted) | I Samuel 17:26-29; 18:9-12;  II Samuel 3:37-39; 15:10-14; 16:5-8; Psalm 9:13; 25:19 | II Timothy 3:12;  I Peter 4:12-19 | … for theirs is the kingdom of heaven…  for your reward in heaven is great  (Romans 8:18; Revelation 21:7) |

