

## THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT: Matthew 5:1-12

### *A Christian's Character*

#### I. Review: The Kingdom of God

- A. The "Already/Not Yet" of the Kingdom of God
- B. The point of the Sermon on the Mount? Living in the Kingdom now!

#### II. Introduction to the Beatitudes

- A. "Beatitude" comes from the Latin 'beatus' for "blessed" or "happy". Which word do you think is better? Where are other Beatitudes in Scripture?

*"To be 'blessed' means, fundamentally, to be approved, to find approval."* - D.A. Carson

*"This blessing is simply fellowship with God... It means having a right relationship to God, and enjoying Him as we should."* - Sinclair Ferguson

- B. Do you think different Beatitudes suit certain personality types? Are they designed to overhaul your personality?

#### IV. The First Three Beatitudes: We are What we are Before God (no more, no less)

- A. The Poor in Spirit – "...for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (v. 3)

*"Poverty of spirit is the personal acknowledgement of spiritual bankruptcy. It is the conscious confession of unworthiness before God. As such, it is the deepest form of repentance."* – D.A. Carson

1. What are false examples of being "poor in spirit"? To which form are we/you prone?
2. Read Luke 18:9-14. Is it possible to be haughty and still believe in grace?

- B. The Mourners – "...for they shall be comforted." (v. 4)

1. When do people typically mourn? What are we called to mourn here?
2. Again, what are false forms of mourning? How does the blessing attending this Christian description protect us from them?

*If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?<sup>4</sup> But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. (Ps 130:3-4)*

3. How do you react when you see the sin of the world? (See Ezra 9, Psalm 44)

C. The Meek - "...for they shall inherit the earth." (v. 4)

1. Meekness is notoriously difficult to define. How would you? Who is meek in the Bible?

*"There is probably no more beautiful quality in a Christian than meekness."* –Sinclair Ferguson

2. How is meekness a true source of contentment? What is the reward?

**V. The Next Three Beatitudes: Turned *Out* of Ourselves**

A. Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness - "...for they shall be filled." (v.5)

*"I do not know of a better test that anyone can apply to himself or herself in this whole matter of the Christian profession than a verse like this." - Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

B. The Merciful - "...for they shall receive mercy." (v. 6)

1. How do the previous beatitudes lead up to this one? Are you merciful in this way?

C. The Pure in Heart - "...for they shall see God." (v. 7)

1. What sort of purity is intended by Ps 24:3-4? Where is your mind 'in neutral'? Do your actions cover up your heart?

*"Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false." (Ps 24:3-4)*

*"And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure." (1 John 3:3)*

D. The Peacemakers - "...for they shall be called sons of God." (v. 8)

1. Why is "peacemaker" used here (not 'the one who yearns for peace', 'the peaceful')? What affords true peace?

**VI. The Final Beatitude: The Surprising Ending!**

A. The Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake - "...for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (v. 10)

1. How is this beatitude a test for all the rest of the beatitudes?

- B. How does Jesus expand on this final beatitude? How does it compare to v. 10 in the underlined portions?

*"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me."<sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matt 5:11)*