

SERMON ON THE MOUNT-SETTING (Matthew 5:1,2)

Large crowds followed Jesus (4:23-25)

Disciples, not necessarily the twelve apostles.

THE BEATITUDES (vv.3-10)

BLESSED: 1. One option-“happy” but in a deep sense

2. Another-to have God’s approval

3. To be ever so fortunate “O the blessedness of..”

FIRST BEATITUDE: POOR IN SPIRIT (v.3)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

This is NOT low self-esteem or putting yourself down.

To be POOR IN SPIRIT is to personally acknowledge one’s personal bankruptcy. It is the conscious confession of being unworthy before God. (eg. Isaiah 6:5-7)

To be POOR IN SPIRIT is to understand one’s unworthiness before God and to empty oneself of all self-righteousness. (eg. Philippians 3:4-8; Romans 3:20)

To be POOR IN SPIRIT is to cast oneself on God’s mercy. (eg. Luke 18:13)

It is fitting that this should come first as becoming a believer (citizen of the Kingdom) involves first of all saying: “I am a sinner and I need a Savior.”

SECOND BEATITUDE: MOURNING (v.4)

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

This is not the mourning over pain, loss of job, bereavement, etc. but over sin, likely the sin in the world (child pornography, racial discrimination, etc.) and even more likely personal sin and its consequences. (eg. Romans 7:21-24)

Such mourners, who bewail their own sinfulness, will be COMFORTED by the only COMFORT which can relieve their distress, namely the free forgiveness of God.

THIRD BEATITUDE: MEEKNESS (v.5)

“Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth.”

Meekness is NOT weakness. The MEEK person is gentle, humble, sensitive and patient in his/her dealing with others. The meek person is not resentful, bears no grudges, and is willing to suffer than inflict pain. (eg. Jesus 1 Peter 2:21-23)

FOURTH BEATITUDE: RIGHTEOUSNESS (v. 6)

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

“hunger and thirst”=wholehearted passionate desire

Two Forms Of Righteousness

1. LEGAL RIGHTEOUSNESS: Such righteousness is imputed, reckoned to us when we put our faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

2. MORAL RIGHTEOUSNESS: This is the righteousness of character and conduct which pleases God and which we are able to produce because the Holy Spirit indwells us as believers.

FIFTH BEATITUDE: MERCY (v.7)

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

Mercy is compassion for people in need. Jesus exhorts his followers to be merciful. (eg. Luke 10:27-37)

Jesus exhorts his followers to be merciful out of gratitude for the mercy that has been extended to them. (eg Matthew 18:21-35)

SIXTH BEATITUDE: PURITY IN HEART (v.8)

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

People look on the outside, God looks at the heart. (mind, will, emotions)

“Everyone who has this hope in Him (Jesus coming again) purifies himself just as He is pure.”(1 John 3:3)

SEVENTH BEATITUDE: PEACEMAKING (v.9)

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God."

God is the author of peace and reconciliation, therefore Kingdom people who are peacemakers are 'sons of God', which is to say that they are doing a Godlike work.

Two Forms of Peacemaking:

- 1. Resolving conflicts-forgiveness, apologizing, etc.**
- 2. Evangelism-helping people find peace with God**

EIGHTH BEATITUDE: THE PERSECUTED (vv.5-10)

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Important words: 'BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS' and 'BECAUSE OF ME'

The apostle Paul: "Everyone who wants to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." 2 Timothy 3:12

Paul's prescription for dealing with persecution in a Godly manner. Romans 12:14-21