

The Sermon On The Mount. The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:1-12

INTRODUCTION

This sermon is Jesus earliest recorded message. This is the "gospel of the kingdom" in proclamation & preview. In this lesson we are going to be concerned with the Lord's teaching concerning the attitudes which must be had for one to be able in this new "citizenship" in this kingdom. In this particular part of the sermon, referred to by many as "**The Beatitudes**", we need to understand this is the way Christians must be! This is what God desires everyone of His children to be. Not just some, but every member of His kingdom. This is not some "optional guidelines" we may "take or leave". They are to be implemented. All Christians are to be expected to manifest all these characteristics, not just a few, or to have a "special one". Each one builds on the one which it precedes. All of them, when put to use in our lives, makes us most effective and pleasing in His kingdom. Another point. None of these traits consist of what may be called a natural tendency. In other words, they must be worked at and perfected. We must adapt them to our way of life and interweave them into all parts of our lives.

Why so? This is sometimes lost in understanding this sermon. By having these qualities, we clearly show the difference between those of the world, and those who are Christians. When the Christian is like the world, when the church allows the world to come into the church, what attraction does it offer to those who are on the outside? How can we be the same and yet compel them to come to Christ? Ponder these things seriously. By having these characteristics, we are then able to be the "salt & light" of this earth, **Matt.5:13-16**.

Jesus pronounces a series of blessings. A proper attitude must be exhibited for one to be a fit subject for this kingdom. Physical birth can not bring us into this kingdom. In Old Israel, it worked, but not in the new. Greater is the new.

John the Baptist, in his preaching setting the way, preached REPENTANCE. Why? This is required to prepare one's heart for the kingdom. **Matt.3:2, 8,9**. A change of heart, resulting in a change of conduct. Must truly be converted, **Matt.18:3**. Born of "water-spirit", not the old way. **Jno.3:1-5**. Heart must be opened to the word of God for it to take hold and produce. Heart is opened by the word of God, and this leads up to the waters of baptism. A spiritual birth. A citizenship based on the inner character, the heart of man, as God sees and weighs the heart.

These blessings are the highest form of true happiness. Moral and spiritual prosperity. What is the blessedness? Citizenship is an the avenue of these blessings. Supreme blessings--Fellowship with God in time and eternity. People were anxious to enter this kingdom. But they must understand what it means to enter that kingdom. **Mt.4:25; Lk.16:16**. God wanted no misunderstanding as to what He expected from them and what He offered them. Outline the character of the inner man which will enables him to be in this kingdom.

#1. POOR IN SPIRIT...For theirs is the kingdom of God".

This contrary to the world's thinking. *"Blessed are the material wealthy; the great & powerful; treasures on earth; highly educated, and wise in their own eyes; high & mighty; live for pleasure"*. This is what the world's says.

a. Poverty of Spirit in contrast to self-sufficiency. To be truly poor in spirit is to be destitute of the spirit's need and realize it! The unsaved man is destitute of every "spiritual blessing", **Eph.1:3**. Starvation of spirit. Wholly devoid of self sufficiency. We understand on total dependence upon Him. It is the opposite of pride, arrogance, and haughtiness. Wholly depended upon His wisdom.

b. Always desired man to have such an attitude. **Psa.51:17**. Man must sees their sins--see their true condition before God. **Isa.57:15**. We need Him! What has humbled them? Sins! **Jer.10:23**. Man needs God's guidance & instructions. I need Him--He doesn't need me! This idea was before Israel, yet, they were God's children if they had it or not. In the new kingdom, this attitude is a must for one to enter in! **Isa.66:2** "Poor and contrite spirit and tremble at His word".

c. He must come to gripes with reality. The unsaved person needs God; he needs Jesus; he needs faith; he needs cleansing from sins; needs hope. If man is without these--he is destitute. **Eph.2:12** Why did He not come to call the righteous? There were none! All had sin! **Rom.3:23; 1 Jno.1:7-9**. Listen to His plea, **Matt.11:28-30.Lk.5:31**. If one delights in his sins, no burden to remove it. One must be humbled at his own weakness and understand his total dependency on God.

d. **Acts 2:37**; Broken spirit. **Rom.10:17**; Willingness to hear His word. **1 Cor.1:22-24**. False concepts, pride in carnal wisdom. Empty of human pride. **1 Cor.3:18**. Must be poor in spirit, humbled, fool in the eyes of the world, but save from his sins. Self-sufficient, pride, and arrogance will make us unfit for this kingdom. Can one possess his humility instead of his pride possessing him? **Job 1:21** Pharaoh made this grave error. **Exo.5:2**

e. This is foundation and fundamental trait which is needed for any soul to come to "the foot of the cross". Why first? How could one come to Christ, if will not "yield himself"? Look at **Lk.18:10-14**. All those who find the "kingdom of heaven" will have seek with a poor spirit.

#2. THOSE WHO MOURN..."For they shall be comforted."

a. True & deep acute sorrow. Bewailing, lamenting. Intense sorrow. Sincere grief. Weeping & crying with tears, **Psa.30:5 ; Isa.55:6-8; Psa.42:2,3; Jere.9:1; Lk.6:21; Mk.16:10; Lk.22:62; Jno.11:35**. One can find out about one's character--what makes them laugh & weep?

b. Is this the same as tears we may cry over death of a love one? NO! No the emptiness we feel at point of death. This is "sorrow over sin", condition needed before the heart can be comforted. Gospel of God's salvation is for the forgiveness of sins, **Eph.1:7**. I'm guilty--my fault--blame myself! My sins nailed Him to that cross!

c. Godly sorrow must exist! **2 Cor.7:8-11; Rom.7:24**; A deep penitent spirit must be exhibited. The inner man must look deep into his heart. One with contrite heart. The realization of my sin--must cut into one's heart. Never will take hold of the unconverted sinner! God must rule my heart. How can He if I have no remorse for my sin? Jesus preached--**Mt.4:17**.

d. Also taught to those of old. **Isa.61:1-3**. (Prophecy) The blessing & comfort, come after the mourning--not before! This state of the heart makes one conditioned to be converted.

e. **Lk.4:16-21**, Fulfilled in His day. **Acts 2:37**. What cause the question? **Acts 3:19**, what makes it refreshing? See the comfort? **Heb.8:12; Ja.4:9.10**. One must humble self before the heart can be broken!

f. Worldly sorrow. What's the difference? After a drink? The headache, the hangover. Your sorrow is temporal. One charged with DUI, sorrow for

getting caught. Temporary consequence of that sin. If I'm caught stealing-I have legal problems with the law. Am I sorry? Why? Wrong focus! Not on the sin, but who it is against! All sin against God!

1. Sometimes people get mad at the preacher, parents, other Christians. Need to worry more about what we have done towards God! When sin "cut one's heart", they can't be at ease, sleep or have peace. Recognize the awesome guilt on their souls! One must understand the shame associated with one's sins!! Help produces godly sorrow and true repentance! This must be the condition of the heart who seek entrance into the "kingdom of heaven" This sorrow must be found--and God will provide the only comfort which can be found!**Mt.11:28-30**

#3. **"BLESSED ARE THE MEEK...for they shall inherit the earth."**

a. What does "meek" mean? This is a virtue for a Christian. "Consistent mildness and gentleness of temper; gentle, humble, easily entreated; modest; longsuffering. Go the "second mile", **Gal.5:22,23** (fruit of the Spirit). Think of Bible characters who have this type of "meekness":

1. **Moses, Num.12:3**; He led a nation out of bondage, went before the king of Egypt, talk with God in the mount. Great courage & leadership.

2. **David, Psalms.37:11**; Israel's greatest king, occupied an exalted place in history, Jesus from his lineage, **Matt.1:1. Psalms.22:26; 25:9; 147:6.**

3. **Jesus.** Jesus was a man of meekness. John refers to Him as "the Lion" and "a Lamb", **Rev.5:5,6.** Perfect combination of courage and meekness, strength, and submissiveness to His Father's will! **2 Cor.10:1.**

4. Meekness must be directed towards God, **Ja.4:10, 1 Pet.5:6,** and man, **Tit.3:2** We must receive God's word with "meekness", **Ja.1:12.** Give an answer for our hope in "meekness and fear", **1 Pet.3:15.** Restoring a fallen child of God, must be done in "meekness", **Gal.6:1.** God places a high value and quality of this type of a spirit, **1 Pet.3:4.**

b. Is "meekness" an inherited trait and cannot be learned? False. God commands us to be meek! it is a quality we must acquire. Many things must be learned: **1 Thess.4:11, "be quiet"; Ja.1:21, "slow to anger"; Phil.4:11, "contentment"; Eph.5:25, "love our wives".** We must seek after,

Zeph.2:3. This is an "inner character". Willingness to submit and not be controlling. Gentle treatment of others, even when I have been wronged!
1 Pet.2:19,20. Total surrender, **Gal.2:20; 1 Thess.2:13;** Accept what God says, does not argue with Him! Meekness put one in position to receive these "spiritual blessings"!

- b. "Inherit the earth". What does this mean to the Christian? Power, might and civil titles don't belong to us. They belong to God! God gave this world to His children for their good (really for all of mankind). **1 Cor.3:21-23.** The meek enjoy this earth, this life, with blessings an hundred-fold--the truly abundant life. Understanding the temporal nature and just a stepping stone to the next! Cannot be physical earth. Why? When Jesus comes back will not be on it! **1 Thess.4:16,17.** Abraham was looking beyond here! **Heb.11:10.** So are we, **Mk.10:30; 2 Tim.4:8;** Man can learn to accept the good things God has prepared for him. How can one, if he not one of "meekness"?

Conclusion...

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