

Sermon On The Mount: The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:1-12

INTRODUCTION:

Let us continue to examine the teaching of Christ concerning the character one must have to gain citizenship in the "kingdom of heaven". This sermon is the "preview & proclamation" of the kingdom. One needs to understand the "spiritual nature" of this kingdom. Physical heritage, lineage, cuts no ice with God in this kingdom. All are on equal footing with God. **Gal.3:28,29**. Let look at our next beatitude Jesus is discussing.

#7. BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS, For they shall called the sons of God." Matt.5:9

a. "Peacemakers" is a compound word. Peace, "tranquillity, contentment;absent of contention and strife; calm and perfect relationship of harmony & reconciliation between spiritual parties". Maker, "One who is peaceable in character-works to make peace for others." This creates a realm of spiritual peace, harmony, reconciliation. Not civil peace-- spiritual peace. Does not sustain itself with war or force.

b. Opposite of this beatitude: "Woe to the troublemakers, for they shall be called the children of Satan".

c. Relationship with God is top "peace" one needs to seek after. Not sustain through physical methods. Nor by compromising any point of truth! One cannot have true peace with God, until he has peace with brethren. **1 John 2:9-11; 4:19-21**. Brethren who are contentious people, like to argue, delight in turmoil, are condemned. **Tit.3:9-11; 1 Tim.6:4; 2 Tim.2:24**. One of things which the Lord's hates, **Prov.6:19**.

d. Old National Israel. Were to love peace, **Psa.122:1-9**. The civil nature of this nation were sustained war, pacts, and marriages of other nations. Jerusalem is the hub of the old Israel. Physical tribes, under a national origin, leader, and came to Jerusalem to worship. Seat of civil government. Peace be within the walls of those who love Israel. Different peace here is discussed. To be defended, but if other nations won't, **Deut.23:3-6**, never have citizenship of other nations. Never welcome in-- have no pity . Never seek their peace!! Ammonite & Moabite mortal enemies forever! Now a new kingdom and new peace, different form this civil one! **Prov.16:7**

e. Peace between God and men and men between men. **Isa.9:6,7**. War spiritual and enemies are spiritual! Kingdom of the Lord of host. Expose error and all of its strongholds with spiritual warfare. **Isa.52:7** (**Rom.10:14**). Kingdom of salvation. Publish peace and good tidings. Examples of: Jonathan, **1 Sam.18:3; 19:2; 20:30-33,41,42**.

f. Fulfilled, **Lk.2:14**. Peace & good will towards, God reconciling the sinner by His Son. **Rom.5:1**. "peace with God", by and through our Lord. **Rom.12:18**. Peace with all men. Consequence of peace with God--leads to this peace with men. **Rom.14:17-19**, a kingdom of righteousness & peace. Follow the things which makes for peace. Citizens of kingdom peace with God, seek peace. God has called us to peace, **1 Cor.7:15; Ja.3:18**. with brethren! All men need to brought into this reconciliation! "Sons of God", children of God we seek this type of peace.

#8. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matt.5:10-12.

a. Self-preservation is said to the first law of nature. God is going to require man to go contrary to nature! Men are deeply devoted to the Master, count it a joy when persecuted, **Acts 5:41; Col.1:24; Rev.12:11**.

b. Persecuted, " be hunted like an animal. Harass, attack, and driven away from men. Hated for the love of the souls of mankind." Kingdom of heaven a kingdom of righteousness & truth. "FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE"--"kingdom of heaven";"revile and persecute you, say all kinds of evil against you falsely for MY SAKE! This is HIS kingdom Belongs to Him! Not the Old Israel! For Christ sake! This is the church of the Lord. He trying to get them to better understand the "Old Law"? Men's love for carnality & sin--will cause men to reject this kingdom--preaching truth, putting men in a picture of reality! Exposes their position before God! Truth cannot be dealt with! Do they just give up? What if they cannot answer you? Discouragement. What means to do so? Falsehoods, lies, impugning motives, character, misrepresentation, ugly pictures of your character, threats, what are we trying to do--SAVE THEIR SOULS! Prophets and the apostles , even Jesus, were given the same treatment. Will we escape? **Mt.10:35-37; Acts 20:29,30; 2 Pet.2:1-3**; Cannot yield to the pressure!

c. Examples: Philip, in 54 A.D. at Heliopolis beaten and crucified. (Fox's Book of Martyrs). James the less, brains bashed out by fuller's club. Peter,

crucified upside down, not worthy to be crucified as the Lord. Jude, crucified in 72 A.D. Bartholomew, in India after preaching Christ. Thomas killed by a spear. Simon Zealot, crucified in 74 A.D. Math's, stoned and beheaded. John, isle to Patmos for preaching Christ. (All info, Fox's Book of Martyrs). Polycarp, 162 A.D. 86 years old. Would not renounce Christ! Could have been freed! Why were these, and many thousands more under the Roman persecution, willing to die? Would we resist to bloodshed? **Heb.12:4**.

d. Pressure of preaching the truth. Do want to be the friend of everybody? Do I bend with the truth? True test for preachers--do it--can't --get out of it! Most conflict from within! How to avoid? Don't preach on certain subjects! Solve it--ignore it! Do we enjoy preaching and pointing it out? Do we just compromise? **STAND FOR TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS**, if you can't--no place of citizenship in this kingdom! Anyone! Hitting home? Truth must be spoken no matter what the outcome? Only those willing to suffer and sacrifice for truth can be citizens in this kingdom! We must take the blows, take the pressure off. Always going to be there. No fellowship with Him if you won't stand up for Him & truth! Time and eternity will happen!

e. If we remain faithful, steadfast, no compromise, stand for truth and righteousness--will it be worth it? "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, **FOR GREAT IS YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN!**" After the proving, the testing, comes the reward. It did for Christ. Satan did not defeat Him! Don't make excuses, be resentful, bitter, or want pity. Understand what is at stake. This is how we get to heaven! This reward will not be for the faint of heart! **1 Pet.1:6-9; 4:12-16; 2 Cor.4:17,18; Heb.13:5; Rom.8:31**. Do want to be a "real winner"? This citizenship has a "cost of discipleship" added to it! Are you willing to pay? Understand you aren't the first to endure persecution, nor will you be the last! **2 Tim.3:12**.

Summary: Blessedness of the Citizens of the Kingdom

a. Their condition can be summed in one word="BLESSED". Use nine times in nine verses. It means the greatest happiness which can be enjoyed. This will surely involve "great joy and gladness", v.12.

b. Understandable in light of "benefits received".

#1. "THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN". In a spiritual kingdom under His rule & authority. Both present and in the future!

- #2. "THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED". Comfort now--forgiveness- and later to be with Him! **Rev.21:1-4.**
- #3. "THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH". Putting it first **Mt.6:33**
- #4. "THEY SHALL BE FILLED". Spiritual nourishment to be supplied.
- #5. "THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY". **Rom.5:9.**
- #6. "THEY SHALL SEE GOD". **1 Jno.3:1,2**
- #7. "THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF GOD". **Rev.21:5-7.**

Conclusion:

We have covered the eight beatitudes. How many do you have at this moment? Are you adding and refining these daily? Look at them very carefully (go through the eight, highlight each one). The decision is yours my friend or brother. Please understand the serious nature of this kingdom and it's requirements for citizenship. God is not going to bargain with you. It's His way or no way! Which will it be for you tonight? Do want to go to heaven? then you must have these types of attitudes to enter in!

- Outline by: *Keith M. Greer*