

10/10/04 – “THE BEATITUDES” - Matthew 5:3-12

Repentance moves us from self-centered to God-centered – “*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*” – Matthew 4:17

“*And when He saw the multitudes, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. And opening His mouth He began to teach them, saying, ‘Blessed...’*” - What does it mean to be **ble**ssed? Jesus’ view of **bl**essing is radically different

Beatitudes reveal “**to be blessed**” has nothing to do with circumstances - Has to do with **our be-attitude** before God...what is pleasing to Him

Eight Beatitudes

“*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*” – **Matt. 5:3** - Understand that it’s **about Him** & not ourselves

“*But let the brother of humble circumstances glory in his high position; and let the rich man glory in his humiliation...*” – **James 1:9**

Being **poor of spirit** makes amazing grace come alive - No spiritual value in poverty except in recognizing our poverty of spirit before God

Poverty of spirit is the opposite of prideful boasting – “**Poorness in spirit**” is the **foundation** on which all other Christian graces are built

“*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*” – **Matthew 5:4** – Committed to God’s purpose of love & redemption

He didn’t say blessed are the merry, the happy or eternal optimists...but those who mourn – **Can that be right?**

Not talking about a self-inflicted sorrow of this world...self-centered melancholy, sadness, “having the blues” or being a “down person”

Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief – **Isaiah 53** - Weeping with those that weep & rejoicing with those who rejoice

“*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*” – **Matthew 5:5** – Not the powerful, the prominent, the “well-positioned”

Meekness is not being “wishy washy” or non-confrontive - **Meekness is not weakness** but strength under discipline

Moses was the meekest man on earth & yet the leader of Israel - Meekness is a character quality of great blessedness

“*Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls.*” – **Matt. 11:28-29**

Meekness is humility of heart before God – You’ll inherit the earth, the land – Blessing in this life!

“*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*” – Matthew 5:6

So many in our culture are trying to get satisfaction but nothing satisfies – Enough is never enough – **I need this, I need that, I want, etc.**

Spiritual hunger has a reward...**Are we hungry for God & His righteousness?** – Do we thirst for His goodness & mercy?

Jesus promises satisfaction (being filled) when we seek righteousness with an appetite & motivation of hunger & thirst

“*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.*” – **Matthew 5:7** – **Mercy triumphs over judgment** – **James 2:13**

Mercy is not the use of flattery or non-judgmental attitude to avoid confrontation, be well-liked or “appear gracious”

Mercy is giving someone what they don’t deserve, it’s also **not giving** (judgment or punishment) that they do deserve

“*He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?*” – Micah 6:8...“*Surely goodness & mercy will follow me all the day of my life*” **Ps. 23:6** - If you are **merciful**, you shall obtain **mercy!**

“*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*” – **Matthew 5:8** - The goal of our instruction is **love from a pure heart**

Where your treasure is is **where your heart will be** also - All you have to do is **follow your heart** & you will find out where you are

Pure in heart see God – God can speak to us in so many ways...dreams & visions, relationships, experiences...shall see God!

Not to be double minded but **genuine of heart**, undivided, honest before Him...**not perfect in heart but pure in heart!**

“*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*” – **Matthew 5:9** - Adoption into His family & inheritance

“*I am for peace, but when I speak, they are for war.*” – **Psalm 120:7** - You will be **blessed if you are a peacemaker**

We are ambassadors of reconciliation - Being a peacemaker can get you hurt or frustrated – That is why so few risk the process of reconciliation

Remember that Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace – “*For He Himself is our peace.*” – **Ephesians 1:14**

“*Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men revile you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of me. Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*” – **Matthew 5:10-12** – Not a misprint...**Blessing in persecution**

You are salt of Earth!