

Beatitudes and Woes

The Beatitudes (also found in Matthew 5:2-12) are, for several reasons, difficult to understand and to apply. This morning we will consider this example of ancient Israelite wisdom in its first century context in order to discover its significance for our lives today.

1. Three Key Words
 - a. Blessed – what is a beatitude?
 - b. Kingdom of God – how is it ‘ours’?
 - c. Disciple – to whom are these relevant?

2. Evidence of God’s Favor: Four Virtues
 - a. Humility: poverty in spirit - Matt. 5:3; 1 Cor. 1:26
 - b. Discontent: an urgent desire to grow -
Matt 5:6; Ps 36:1-2
 - c. Sorrow: for sin and sin’s effects – 2 Cor. 7:10
 - d. Loyalty: a refusal to deny Christ

3. Spiritual Danger: Four Warning Signs
 - a. Pride: being ‘rich in spirit’
 - b. Satisfaction: being at ease in your own
Righteousness
 - c. Laughter: blithely ignoring your sin and its
effects in the world
 - d. Popularity: being loved by everyone

Application:

1. Which side of Christ’s teaching are you on?
2. There are three things that these beatitudes compel us to do in living our lives:
 - a. Look back to God’s Word (the prophets)
 - b. Embrace God’s Rule (his kingdom)
 - c. Look forward to God’s Reward
3. What will you do?

