

Sermon Series: Spurred on to Holiness (and Power) by Immersing Ourselves into the Life of Christ Through the Eyes of the Apostles – A Harmony of All Four Gospels

Sermon Title: Christians, Despised by the World, but Super-Blessed by the Father, A Study of the Beatitudes Part Two. From Matthew 5:3-9

October 7, 2018

Theme verse: Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. (ESV)

Introduction: Last week I said the forces of darkness and light were arrayed inside the Senate hearing room to do battle for the soul of our country but did you know the same battle is going on in each home for the souls of our children? The enemy will use every means necessary to keep your child, grandchild outside of the Kingdom of Heaven including, television, movies, higher and lower education, evolutionary doctrine, peer pressure. . . . One of the worst influences I want to single out is the heretical teaching called the self-esteem movement pervasively taught in our society through every means including social media. The dogma is this – it is critical to give our children an inflated sense of self-esteem or else they will never develop emotionally healthy. Did you know this is nothing but a euphemism for pride? Every child needs to know they are valued, that's the balance, but every child also needs to know they are depraved, wicked, sinful rebellious otherwise, they will never respond to the gospel. Either we as parents can begin that process or the Lord will have to do it later but I truly believe we as godly parents can give our children an advantage to the gospel that non-believing parents cannot give their children. Just look at 1 Corinthians 7:14.

Context

Exegesis

Main point: Christians need to know that we are blessed beyond belief because we have a greater reward than the world, even though we may go hungry, be scorned, and be seriously hurt in this life. Non-Christians need to know that their future fate is beyond horrible if they choose to value this life and its values over God's values.

¹ “Blessed are the lowly (bankrupt) in spirit. For theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”

Condition and Reward

Who are those who are bankrupt in spirit?

- Those who know they have nothing to offer God to earn His Grace.
- Those who know they could have committed every sin known to man had not God prevented them from doing so.
- Those who grieve about their condition feeling genuine sorrow that they have offended the God who gave them life.
- Those who know, agree with and mourn the truth which Jeremiah uttered when he said Jeremiah 17:9–10 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? 10 “I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.” (ESV)
- Those who stop defending themselves and stop making up excuses for their behavior.

What is Their Reward

- They have now (present tense) the Kingdom of Heaven. Not just a future reward. They have at their disposal all the power and promises God has given to His children. What does citizenship in any Kingdom provide? Protection and Privileges.
- They are not subjects of or servants of the Kingdom but Sons of the Kingdom/royalty
- Power and Promises of Kingdom Citizens:
 - Miraculous Powers
 - 1 Corinthians 4:20 For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power. (ESV)
 - 2 Corinthians 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. (ESV)
 - Ephesians 1:19–20 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, (ESV)
 - 2 Thessalonians 1:11–12 To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)
 - 2 Timothy 1:7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. (ESV)
 - Hebrews 6:5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, (ESV)
 - Promises
 - God will supply all our needs: Philippians 4:19–20 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

- God will give us the strength we need. Isaiah 40:31 but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (ESV)
- God will help us overcome our fears. Isaiah 41:10 fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (ESV)
- God will protect us in the midst of the greatest dangers. Isaiah 43:2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. (ESV)

The Greatest Gift of All for Kingdom Dwellers:

- Matthew 7:9–11 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! (ESV)
- Luke 11:11–13 What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (ESV)

Application

The world is fast approaching the fulfillments of end time prophecies. Many of the world’s powerful elite believe they will have their one world government controlling everything by 2030, just 12 years from now. That is not a hard date since God could change their plans any time. Look up the phrase singularity and you will discover that the scientists working on that moment believe it can happen before 2040. Transhumanism, genetic manipulation, these are all hot topics and History Channel just did a 4 hour feature showing advances in every area. MIT reports that the first brain to brain communication has been successfully accomplished.

For the non-believer, there is so much to fear. But this message should remove all fear for all time. We are not victims. We are not at the mercy of Satan or the Anti-Christ. We are the spiritual elite who have been empowered by and inhabited by Almighty God Himself and we have already obtained the immortality they so fervently desire. How? By admitting we are weak and helpless and having surrendered to the God who is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and at whose feet all men will bow in heaven or earth or under the earth. Do not fear, we are citizens of Heaven.