

The Sermon on the Mount
Class Notes
Session 2

The “Beatitudes”

Matthew 5.2-12 “Blessed...” The word “Beatitude” comes from Latin “*beatitudo*” which translates the Greek μακάριος (*makarios*): (To be) “Happy” “Fortunate” (Blessed)

(v.3): “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven...”

“Poor in Spirit.” πτωχός (*ptōchos*)... “Of little value”

Those who acknowledge their spiritual Emptiness (Poverty)

The Kingdom of Heaven—God’s will, rule. In Matthew, the Kingdom of Heaven is both *here* and *gradually arriving*....

- In Jesus’ ministry.
- Through Jesus’ life, death, resurrection, and ascension.
- Remaining to be fulfilled in the future.

God’s sovereign rule is invading history through the person and work of Jesus.

(v.4): “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” ... πενθεῶ (*pentheō*)... “To grieve”

Mourning... Acknowledging loss and lack.

This is the eschatological courage of *Revelation 21.4*

Isaiah 61.2-3

God’s Kingdom not yet fulfilled... Yet will be!

(v.5): “Blessed are the **meek**, for they shall **inherit** the earth.” Very similar to the “*Poor in Spirit*.”

πραῦς (*praus*): “Gentle” “Pleasant”

Meekness is active dedication to Christlikeness.

Matthew 11.29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Those who stand empty handed before God in total dependence will see a reversal of what was lost.

The meek, the humble, these are the ones who know they do not have it altogether, yet, God’s love enfolds them—they know God accepts them and loves them with their needs...no need to pretend...to fake it!

The blessing...Inheriting the “Earth.”

κληρονομέω (*klaronomeō*) “To receive something of considerable value which has not been earned.”

Psalm 37.9

Rather than frantically grabbing all you can get, the meek relax, believing that God will take care of our needs. The whole world belongs to God. If you are His child, they will belong *to you*.

Psalm 37.8-11

(v.6): *Blessed are those who **hunger** and thirst for **righteousness**, for they shall be satisfied.*”

Χορτάζω (*chortazō*): “Cause to eat one’s fill,” “Be content”

δικαιοσύνην (*dikaiosune*): “Justice” “Equity of character or act.”

God will Reward those who earnestly and habitually seek to do the divine will as it were food. (i.e. filled)

This is a life lived in Obedience to the will of God. A new relationship between God and the disciple.

Psalm 107.8-9

(v.7): *“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”*

Like for like. Mercy is the Outer manifestation of Inner emotion. Active compassion for those who are least, last, and lost! Mercy embraces both forgiveness and compassion.

(v.8): *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”*

The Heart...the real, true self. Integration/integrity of the self.

The meaning has to do with the rest of the sermon. Not outward show—but a private encounter between God and the individual.

This is an undivided heart. Soren Kierkegaard— “Purity of heart is to will one thing”.

What is the blessing? To SEE God! ...ὁπτανομαι (*optanomai*)... “Be visible to”

To “see” God...To experience something. (“I hope to see that day”).

Going Forward: ...“to be ‘blessed’ means to relate to God in a particular way. Some modern translations substitute the word ‘happy’ for the word ‘blessed’ and make the whole thing into a feeling. But Jesus is not talking about our feelings in this passage. As John Stott says, ‘Happiness is a subjective state, whereas Jesus is making an objective judgement about these people.’ This is what God says about them. It is to those who have nothing in themselves that God gives the kingdom of heaven, the comfort of heaven, the earth as their inheritance, the satisfaction of his provision, the mercy and vision of God, the right to be called his sons and the greatest of all rewards: a place in his kingdom.”¹

¹ I.D. Campbell. *Opening up Matthew* (p. 43). Day One Publications, 2008).