



THE BEATITUDES 1

Jesus' sermon on the mount covers Matthew 5:1—7:29. This is the longest published sermon that Jesus gave. The first portion of the sermon is called, "The Beatitudes." These are the general attitudes that a Christian is to pose in situations. Today we will look at these attitudes.

Matthew 5:1-12

1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Blessed are the Poor in Spirit

Jesus started the sermon with, "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." This is certainly not like the opening line of most sermons that you would hear today. Can you imagine some preacher telling you that those who have a poor spirit will be the ones who enter heaven? The Amplified Bible describes the phrase, "poor in spirit" as (the humble, rating themselves insignificant). The world today preaches that the proud and mighty are the ones who gain everything. Those who want to gain heaven need to consider themselves as insignificant and unworthy, the opposite of the teaching of the world.

Could you imagine a preacher today telling his church that they must humble themselves to the point where they consider themselves insignificant? Could you imagine some of the televangelists rating themselves as insignificant of the high calling that the Lord has given them? The world today is so proud and puffed up with themselves that the first line of Jesus' sermon is totally missed.

Blessed are the poor in spirit are those who have humbled themselves to the point where they are nothing while God is everything. The poor in spirit are those who realize that without Christ, their lives are nothing.

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Jesus is the one who saved this wretch who was a drunken soldier who was proud of his abilities and accomplishments. Jesus changed my life totally where those who did not know the old LeRoy are surprised to hear others tell of the miraculous change.

Jesus took a proud wretch and created a totally new creature who has put Jesus first above all else. When Jesus is premier in your life, all of your wants and desires become secondary. One of the most famous songs symbolizing the poor in spirit is “Amazing Grace” by John Newton who was a slave trader. The biography of John Newton can be found at:

<http://www.joyfulheart.com/misc/newton.htm>

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me,
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

This hymn that we often sing while not paying attention to the meaning of the words describes a person who is truly poor in spirit. These are the ones who will make it to heaven while the proud and the mighty have their reward here on earth.

While the world is shouting for you to be proud of yourself and gain everything that the world has to offer, Jesus taught that the humble will receive the greater reward. While the world has its riches and wealth, the poor in spirit will eventually gain heaven. The world is continually shouting at you everything it has to offer. This is done through television, Internet, computer games, movies, and every other form of media.

The Christian needs to resist the temptation to puff himself up and must continually remind himself where the Lord has brought

him from. Jesus has lifted me up from being a drunken soldier to where I am now a soldier for Christ.

When I had nothing to offer the Lord, he saw what I could become. He saw a preacher in a drunken soldier who would proclaim Jesus Christ to the lost. There is nothing that I have done on my own. Jesus has done it all!

Blessed are they that Mourn

Verse 4 states, “Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.” Those who are truly mournful of their wicked ways will be comforted. When you really repent of your sins realizing that you are a wicked sinner, then Jesus comes into your heart and lifts you up making you a brand new creation. The joy that you feel surpasses anything that the world has to offer. The comfort that the Lord gives to the repentant sinner is greater than anything that the sinful world has to offer. The Joy I felt when the Lord filled me with his divine Spirit surpassed everything I have ever felt.

There are many who think that just raising a hand is repentance. True repentance is when a person really seeks the forgiveness of the Lord and is totally willing to allow the Lord take total control of their life. I knew a person who sought the Holy Ghost for fifteen years while he was not willing to allow the Lord to have total control of his life. When he finally gave up and allowed the Lord total access to his life, he received the Holy Ghost.

Though he went to every altar call and showed he was praying, the Lord knew that he was holding back. He had no joy or comfort during the fifteen years he sought the Lord. When he truly mourned of his sin of holding back on the Lord, then he was filled with great joy and was finally comforted.

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The Lord gives his grace and comfort to those who really give their all to him. While some see an outward sign, the Lord is continually looking at the heart. You cannot get away with trying to fool the Lord. Only when you are truly mournful of your wickedness and sinful ways will the Lord Jesus Christ come in and fill you with his comforting Spirit.

Blessed are the Meek

The world is continually telling you that the proud and mighty own the earth, but the Bible tells us that the meek will inherit the earth. The world looks down on the meek and mild mannered individual while it holds up the proud and impudent. Jesus taught the exact opposite of what the world is continually preaching. In the end, the meek will inherit the earth while the proud and impudent inherit a lake of fire.

Blessed are they which do Hunger and Thirst after Righteousness

Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness shall be filled. The world hungers and thirsts after adultery, fornication, pornography, lasciviousness, wickedness, and all of the other sins imaginable. If you will notice that those who hunger and thirst after the sin of the world, they are never satisfied. They always want more and are never filled. Those who hunger and thirst after the righteousness of the Lord are filled. Jesus makes those who seek him with their whole heart filled to overflowing. When you hunger and thirst after the righteousness of Jesus Christ, then you are filled with the Lord's Holy Spirit. When you have the Spirit of the Lord, there is nothing better.

The world is continually seeking a greater thrill, greater riches, or greater whatever and never is satisfied. On the other hand, the

Christian who has sought the righteousness of Jesus Christ is filled to overflowing.

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Sunday Evening 6:30 PM
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