



THE BEATITUDES II

Last week in our study of the Beatitudes we covered the following topics:

- Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
- Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
- Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

We discovered last week that each topic that Jesus covered in the Beatitudes has a deeper meaning than a cursory reading of the scripture. Many read the Bible quickly without comprehending or contemplating what the scripture is saying to them.

This week we continue our study of the Beatitudes gaining a deeper appreciation of Jesus' teaching.

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 Merciful

It is so easy to get your ire up with someone who has done you a wrong or disservice. A merciful person is one who is merciful to those who do not deserve mercy. When we are saved by the mercy of Jesus Christ, we should show the same mercy to others who have sinned against us. We do not deserve the Lord's forgiveness just like those who have sinned against us do not deserve our mercy.

Jesus showed us his great mercy when he forgave us of our wicked sins. When we pleaded with the Lord to forgive us of our sins and he filled us with his divine spirit, he showed us just how great his mercy is.

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Romans 5:8

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

This shows the mercy of the Lord toward us that even while we were living in sin Jesus died for us on the cross of Calvary. Even while we were actually fighting the Lord all of the time, Jesus showed us what mercy is all about.

So when Jesus was teaching on the mount telling the audience, "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy," he was not just talking about showing mercy to those who deserve mercy, but to those who are the most undeserving of mercy. For us, this is very hard to do, but as you grow in the grace of the Lord it becomes easier each time you do good to those who have wronged you.

Matthew 5:44

44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Jesus expounded on how to be merciful in Mathew 5:44. It is terribly hard to love someone who hates you and is doing everything possible to harm and destroy you. Being a Christian is difficult when you are called upon to show mercy to a nefarious and villainous individual who is doing their utmost to harm and destroy you. Jesus tells us to love, bless, pray, and do good to them that are hurting you.

This goes contrary to our nature and we want to behave like the rest of the world doing more damage to our enemy than he is doing to us. As Christians we are to show the same

mercy to our enemies that Christ showed to us when we were his enemy.

Blessed are the Pure in Heart

These are the ones who have been cleansed from their sin by the Lord Jesus Christ. These are the ones who continually grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. These are the ones who have heeded the lessons that the Lord has given us and are continually becoming more Christ like.

These are the ones when confronted with problems and other items seek the Lord and his divine wisdom first rather than fighting their enemies. These are the ones who pray without ceasing. These are the ones who have the love of the Lord buried deep in their heart and seek to do good rather than evil.

These are the ones who have a heart that is filled with the Lord's Spirit and not the spirit of the world. These are the ones who love the Lord with their whole heart. These are the ones who have the fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-25

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

The pure in heart are also the ones who flee all of the sin and wickedness that the world throws in your face. All of this wickedness is spelled out by the Apostle Paul.

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Romans 1:18-32

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Though many firmly believe that believing in Jesus is all that you need to be saved, keep in mind that the devils also believe and tremble. Believing in Jesus Christ is just the first step toward salvation. After you believe in the Lord then you need to seek his Holy Spirit and his Holiness.

When you are filled with the Holy Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ the pleasures of sin become anathema. The things that you used to love doing you now detest. When I was in the world I did all of the wickedness that the world had to offer. After I became filled with the Lord's Spirit, everything that I used to love I hated; and everything I used to hate, that I now love. When I was a sinner in the world I used to hate what were called the holy rollers. Now I love the holy rollers. When I was a sinner I loved drinking and partying with the drunks. Now I do not even go into the bars and saloons that I used to love.

To be pure in heart means to be really born

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again with a new heart and purpose in life. The pure in heart strive to be like the Lord Jesus Christ. All of the joys of the world become detestable while the joys of righteousness become great joy.

When you have the fruit of the Spirit and flee all of the wickedness of the world, you have a pure heart. Those with a pure heart will be the ones who see the Lord when they rise to meet him in the air.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

The Lord knows your heart and knows who really is pure in heart. The Lord is not mocked with deceivers who claim they are a Christian while in reality they are children of the world.

Next week we will start our discussion with being a peacemaker.

Blessed are the Peacemakers

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