

Blessed

heaven God righteousness kingdom persecuted

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persecute falsely prophets kinds pure merciful earth kingdom people sake poor heart inherit

comfOrted peacemakers reward spirit way children great revile

# THE BEATITUDES

MATTHEW CHAPTERS 5-7

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# PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE

- The Beatitudes was a message to strengthen those who believed. Some say Jesus only spoke to the disciples
- This Message is presented at the onset of Jesus' ministry after choosing his disciples
- This Message is not for the world for the world does not follow Christ
- This message is not for the religious for they trust more in their rituals than their relationship
- This is a message about faith whereby the disciple must be daily and totally dependent upon God.
- This whole sermon is outlined in 3 chapters, not just 7 verses

# SERMON ON THE MOUNT

- The Sermon on the Mount is sometimes thought of as Jesus' "Declaration of the Kingdom."
  - This is how kingdom people should live
  - a simple proclamation of how God expects us to live, contrasting with common Jewish misunderstandings of that life.
- The word, *kingdom* has two elements. It refers first to the king's reign and rule, and secondly to the king's realm.
  - Those who abide in this kingdom, this realm under the king's rule should live in a certain manner
  - Not a code of ethics, but how we should live based upon our relationship with Christ

# THE EIGHT BEATITUDES



*From Matthew, chapter Five  
Blessed are...*

- ...the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ([5:3](#))
- ...those who mourn: for they will be comforted. ([5:4](#))
- ...the meek: for they will inherit the earth. ([5:5](#))
- ...those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they will be filled. ([5:6](#))

# BEATITUDES

- ...the merciful: for they will be shown mercy.  
([5:7](#))
- ...the pure in heart: for they will see God. ([5:8](#))
- ...the peacemakers: for they will be called children of God. ([5:9](#))
- ...those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
([5:10](#))

# FOUR SECTIONS OF THE SERMON

- ❑ The Subjects of the Kingdom (Matt 5:3-16)
  - ❑ kind of people who populates His kingdom
- ❑ The precepts of the kingdom (Matt 5:17-5:48)
- ❑ The righteousness of the kingdom (Matt 6:1-7:12)
  - ❑ Reflects giving, fasting, prayer
  - ❑ Our ambitions and intentions – Matthew 6:19,20
  - ❑ How we treat others and love one another
- ❑ The tests of the kingdom (Matt 7:13-27) that proves our righteousness
  - ❑ Counter cultural – unlike the world
  - ❑ Bears fruit that reflects character, holy living and good works
  - ❑ Builds their house on a rock – having foundation

# BLESSED

- Hebrew Words: *barak and ashrei*
  - *To bless, kneel, salute or greet. The concept of passing a favor from one person to another and also from God to men*
  - *To describe a person's state of being*
- *So in Hebrew it is related to the fact that man by his own actions can bring about a state of well being through his faith and obedience, abiding in Christ*
- *So blessings can be granted to someone as a result of the actions a person takes on his own*

# IN HIM

- **2 Corinthians 5:17** - Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
  - As a believer, “In Christ,” man is in a new state of being, governed by a new nature
- **Colossians 2:3** - In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
- **Romans 8:39** - Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



# BEATITUDES

- The Beatitudes describe those whose lives are characterized by a blessed state of being that demonstrates contentment and harmony with God's greater purposes
- The paradox is that the people Jesus describes appears to be those who are the least of candidates to experience joy and fulfillment

# BEATITUDES

- Each of the Beatitudes introduces a class of people who seem entirely incapable of being happy
  - The Destitute and Desperate
  - Those Living in Regret and Remorse
  - The Oppressed
  - The Ones Under Judgment
  - The Ones who don't get what they deserve
  - The Ones who aren't good enough
  - The Ones who put themselves at risk
  - The Ones who are being persecuted

# "BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN"

- This is not about divine entitlement as if God owes us something
- It carries a meaning of *being happy, set apart, fortunate*
- *Poor in spirit describes the person who lives from day to day*
  - *They are beggars, totally dependent upon others – God*
- *God describes these as the most fortunate people alive*
- *Many of us today are spiritually destitute because we are not dependent, but independent, trusting in our own resources and abilities*
- *Blessed are those who recognize that God is their Vital Need*
- *Citizens of the Kingdom are citizens because they have nothing of their own – This world is not theirs (1 John 2:15)*

# SCRIPTURE

**Psalms 27:8 - You have said, Seek My face [inquire for and require My presence as your vital need]. My heart says to You, Your face (Your presence), Lord, will I seek, inquire for, and require [of necessity and on the authority of Your Word].**

**Psalms 70:4 - May all those who seek, inquire of and for You, and require You [as their vital need] rejoice and be glad in You; and may those who love Your salvation say continually, Let God be magnified!**

## BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT..CONT'D

- The world has made an idol of self-sufficiency
- We want God on our own terms
- We want to prove to ourselves and others that our inner resolve and inner reliance is the seat of our power, fame, and fortune
- We flood the media with “success” images, worshipping the self-made person
- If you become connected to your goods, then you become dependent upon your goods
- Think about the story of Lazarus and the Rich man (**Luke 16:20-23**)
- *The poor in spirit recognize that they have no spiritual “assets.” They know they are spiritually bankrupt*

# HOW WE VIEW OTHERS

- We judge people by what we have and by what we do (Ethnocentric)
- We are more acceptable of a well dressed, successful looking sinner than a struggling Christian

# MATTHEW 5:4 - BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN: FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED.

- Do You Mourn Over the Lack of God in Your Life?
- Do You Mourn Over the Sin in Your Life and How it Keeps You Separated From God?
- It's Time to Stop Weeping and Begin a Life of Repentance



# BLESSED

- An important aspect of the Beatitudes is the announcement or declaration that Jesus makes in each of our circumstances.
- He sent His Word and healed them (Psalms 107:20)
- God's Word and His promises are always in the midst of our circumstances
- When His Word is revealed in us and to us as we struggle, it brings hope, promise, and comfort to the point that we are able to endure and hold on



# ARE WE IN SYNC LORD?

- Is Jesus talking about the same things we think about?
- Are the Beatitudes a comparison to a spiritual dilemma or need?



For example, we think of mourning as something we do at funeral or to express grief over a loss. Jesus compares this to a spiritual condition that is so distressed because it is out of fellowship with God and separated by sin.

The only relief and way to comfort comes through repentance instead of regret; Submission over Sympathy; the need for conversion over bitterness over one's situation.

# COMFORT

- Comforted: Exhorted, Strengthen, Instructed; Refreshed

- "To soothe in time of affliction or distress."

*“Comfort, O comfort My people,’ says your God. ‘Speak kindly to Jerusalem; and call out to her, that her warfare has ended, that her iniquity has been removed, that she has received of the Lord’s hand double for all her sins’” (Isaiah 40:1, 2).*

- Comfort comes when a burden is removed – Sin is a burden
- The Holy Spirit is known as the Comforter called alongside to help teach, exhort, and guide the believer

# GRIEVING

***“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted (Matthew 5:4)***

- Mourn: “To Lament”; to express regret or to grieve audibly
- To mourn is a sorrowful word
- The crowd that Jesus spoke to knew about mourning – They had suffered much under Roman rule
- Mourning is usually associated with death and loss
- ***Others mourn over their sinful condition***

# PROMISE

- Jesus promises comfort to those who mourn
- In the center of our anguish is a promise that we will be comforted
- Those who mourn are a point of fragileness, were they realize their hopelessness and that they are not in charge
- In this passage, Jesus announces a most important promise: *Death is not the end (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:55)- God promises us victory and comfort over death*

# WHAT IS GODLY SORROW

- Man must first acknowledge that he has disobeyed God's law
- All sins, even sins against other people, are acts of wrong toward God. True repentance demands that we recognize this.
- David is an excellent example of this attitude. When the prophet Nathan confronted him concerning his sinful relationship with Bathsheba, what did he say? *"So David said to Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD..."* {2 Samuel 12:13}. David accepted accountability for the matter.

# GODLY SORROW

Peter is another example of this type of repentance. When he realized that he had betrayed the Lord, just as He told him he would, "*Peter went out and wept bitterly*" {**Luke 22:62**}.

*For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death*" {**2 Corinthians 7:10**}.

# WORLDLY SORROW

- When sorrow is received or borne in a worldly way, it has the deadly effect of producing resentment or bitterness
- Many time the bitterness or depression is associated with a sense of regret





# GODLY SORROW

1. Godly sorrow begins with the conviction of the Holy Spirit.
2. Godly sorrow is pain over breaking God's heart.
3. Godly sorrow is remorse over hurting and disappointing others.
4. Godly sorrow is heartfelt grief over violating God's law.
5. Godly sorrow receives Christ's forgiveness from the Cross.
6. Godly sorrow produces hope knowing that God's grace is sufficient for our sins.
7. Godly sorrow hungers for a deeper relationship with God and burns with the desire to please the Holy Spirit.

# WORLDLY SORROW:

1. Worldly sorrow begins with having gotten caught.
2. Worldly sorrow is pain over having to suffer the consequences of my actions. (**Cain: “This is more than I can bear”**)
3. Worldly sorrow is anger and frustration that life will be more difficult. (**Sorrow over inconvenience**)
4. Worldly sorrow is grief that I did not get what I wanted (**Selfishness**)
5. Worldly sorrow attempts to earn God’s approval through doing better and trying harder.
6. Worldly sorrow produces despair, I can never be good enough.
7. Worldly sorrow wants God to fix things and make life better.

# SIMPLY PUT

- **Worldly Sorrow: Regret**
- **Godly Sorrow: Repentance**
- **Jesus was speaking more than just comforting that comes due to a funeral or experiencing loss. He was speaking to the sinful condition of man, separated by sin, spiritually dead, and in need of resurrection**

# REGRET OR REPENTANCE

- Most people act out of Regret/Remorse than Repentance
- In our country today we are seeing people enraged, disturbed, and fearful because of their social condition and/or consequences, overlooking that it is a failure in our spiritual condition that is linked to much of what we suffer today
- They regret their social circumstances, failed marriages, aborted children, missed opportunities for blessings or promotion, failing to change their heart and turn their heart towards God

# THE MARK OF CAIN

- Genesis 4:13: Cain considered his sin too much to be forgiven of. He only viewed his punishment and not the opportunity for Repentance
- Most people view their sin greater than God's forgiveness
- In Hebrew, to bear iniquity is to undergo the punishment of it
- The Bible never shows Adam and Eve repenting, but only trying to cover their sins.

# JESUS PAID IT ALL

You are not supposed to deal with your sins. Jesus already accomplished that at the cross. You are to seek repentance and lay your sins at the foot of the cross.

Your sins are separated as far as the East is to the West so that you would not live a life of regret, but peace and righteousness

# EXAMPLE:

- A woman and a man have pre-marital sex
  - The woman now becomes pregnant
  - She is now experiencing shame and inconvenience
- The man may begin to regret his relationship with her
- She commits an abortion to cover his sins or to end her inconvenience
  - She now experiences regret and remorse
  - The man feels temporary relief and continues in his way
  - **NO REPENTANCE, NO REGRET, Leads to REPEATED SINS**

# GODLY SORROW

- Christ came to preach repentance, to induce people to mourn over their sins and to forsake them
  - ***2 Corinthians 7:10 - For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.***
  - ***Most of the teaching of today's church does not induce a sorrow for one's sin and/or a need to repent and change***
- So those that grieve over sin; that sorrow that they have committed it, and are afflicted and wounded that they have offended God, shall find comfort in the gospel.
- It is true that the gospel only can give true comfort to those in affliction, [Isaiah 61:1-3](#); [Luke 4:18](#).



# QUOTES

"One of the clearest marks of sin is our almost innate desire to excuse ourselves and complain if we are judged in any way" (Boice)

"One of the consequences of sin is that it makes the sinner pity himself instead of turning to God. One of the first signs of a new life is that the individual takes sides with God against himself (Barnhouse)

# RELIEF

- **Worldly Sorrow: Relief from depression through drugs, eastern philosophy, etch**
- **Godly sorrow: Relief through prayer, praise, and comfort from God's Word**

# SORROW

- To really be followers of Jesus, we must mourn over our sin and the ruin and separation from God that comes to our life from sin.
- Through the merciful Saviour those sins may be forgiven. In him the weary and heavy-ladened soul shall find peace [Matthew 11:28-30](#); and the presence of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, shall sustain them here [John 14:26-27](#), and in heaven all their tears shall be wiped away, [Revelation 21:4](#).

# QUESTIONS

- Are you sorrowful for your sins or inconvenienced by them?
- How do you respond to your sorrowfulness?
- How do you help others deal with their sorrow?