

9/01/24 Meeker Christian Church - Beatitudes Summary

The last 8 weeks we have examined what are generally headed in our Bibles as the beatitudes. Beatitudes is a Latin word meaning "blessed or blessing" and is an excellent descriptive term for this part of Jesus's sermon on the mount.

The objective for this series has been to be a blessing by encouraging your personal faith growth for productive kingdom service resulting in expansion of Meeker Christian Church's ministry.

One commentator (Weirsby) introduced his explanation of the Beatitudes with this extremely helpful insight: "Keep in mind that these are not commandments to obey-a Christian Law. The Sermon on the Mount describes the character of the truly righteous person that comes from a walk with the Lord."

My contribution is that the Old Testament Lovemandments (you know them as the 10 Commandments) and these New Testament Beatitudes are a part of the Creator's owners manual for care and maintenance of His creatures. Like a proud love motivated parent teaching their child, our love motivated God desires to teach us by protecting and providing for us through the revelations of the Holy Scripture.

Sixteen verses describe the desired character of a committed believer while the rest of the Sermon on the Mount is about the activity that produces that character.

Undergirding all of the ministry of Jesus was His life purpose fulfilled on Calvary for the salvation and eternal life of all who will ever accept Him and be baptized..

We come now to Matthew 5:1 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. All of these 2. attitudes of the beatitudes start in the heart. What we think in our heart is what we become in our attitudes and character. I believe that is exactly what

Paul was getting at in 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 NIV and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, 12 so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

Matthew 5:2-3 Then He (Jesus) opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

3 #1 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

To be poor in spirit means to be humble, to have a correct estimate of one's self. Isaiah 57:15 For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly that he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

The poor in spirit describes those who have identified and given glory to God for rescuing them out of their condition of abject and complete spiritual poverty. And as a result have willingly and passionately put their whole trust in God.

Matthew 5:4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. In context the intent is to help us get a real life experience of the deep emotional trauma a person who seeks righteousness will encounter when they finally acknowledge the lostness and heretofore hopeless life condition in which they struggled. /// Experiencing the painfulness with the death of a loved one helps exemplify just how painful and hopeless life without Christ is and will be for all eternity. God is Sovereign which means He is all powerful, ever present and has all knowledge. When we acknowledge those truths, whether 3. we agree or understand has no bearing on their reality, they are the sacred truth. They are to be accepted by faith and rejoice in the promised comfort

we receive directly through the Holy Spirit, the Bible, our family, friends, and the church family.

Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. The Hebrew word "berakah" used here seems to transmit the idea that a person working on developing the attitude of meekness is blessed in the effort and commended for their determination to acquire that character attitude. It also implies that the meek person becomes an ever increasing blessing to fellow Christians and others in their circle of life.

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.

A meek person is one who humbly acknowledges their dependence on the goodness and grace of GOD and betrays no arrogance toward their fellowman. It refers to power under control... Therefore a meek person understands who he is, whose he is, and the gifts embodied in their earthly body, soul, and spirit. They relate with others to maximize their personal potential for the purpose and glory of the Heavenly Father.

Matthew 5:6 #4 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. Visualization of physical hunger and thirst make this beatitude come alive and become ever so real!. It strikes the soul of a Christian to realize that these visualizations represent the spiritual condition of persons all around the earth who have not responded to faith in Jesus Christ. And how it portrays a poignant illustration of our own condition pre-conversion.

Peter explains it to us in 1 Peter 2:1-3 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3. if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

4. The point being made is seeking for righteousness in the spiritual lives of Holy Spirit infused persons is even more important and eternally essential

than the desire and requirement of food and water for the physical body! Matthew 5:7 #5 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

The Hebrew word for mercy carries the idea of identification with the suffering of others. – The Greek word for mercy is acting consistently with the revelation of God's covenant. As Christians live consistently in the revelation of God's covenant of the Ten Lovemandments and these Beatitudes, we become sensitive to and identify with the physical and spiritual suffering of others. ..

The New Testament is insistent that to expect to be forgiven and - in expression of gratefulness for forgiveness, we must be forgiving to others!

James 2:13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Matthew 5:8 #6 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. (Vine's Bible Dictionary says the heart is a man's entire mental and moral activity, both the rational and the emotional elements. The heart is the seat of conviction & morality)

2 Corinthians 4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

** Do you realize there is no other way we could know this except through the revelation of the Bible? In exactly the same manner, do you realize the Bible is full of otherwise unknowable revelations for the heart of created mankind?

Pure in heart is one who has accepted JESUS as LORD. Pure in heart is one who faithfully walks in obedience to the Bible revealed values. Pure in heart is one who accepts discipline with grace and humility and by their lifestyle plainly understands the grace and mercy of Jesus for our salvation.

5. Pure in heart is the reflection of JESUS through persons who have submitted their lives wholly to HIM.

Matthew 5:9 #7 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

Reflect for just a moment on the depth of intent of this definition of being a peacemaker. When we are urged to be peacemakers and thereby blessed for being peacemakers - we are in fact, - being urged to consider and compare ourselves to the model of Jesus and our Heavenly Father. /// – The triune Godhead is the epitome of peacemakers. God is the power and authority to enforce peace, and provider of the consequential blessings or curse of the created creature's response to the command of being a peacemaker. Therefore the absolute meaning of shalom/peace, of being a peacemaker, becomes possible only through accepting and committing to Jesus as Lord and learning and living His righteousness.

I commend you who understand the truth of God's word and have chosen to commit to the lifestyle of being a peacemaker. --/// Your assurance of the peace promised and expressed in the Bible is just as secure as your salvation.-- But they both depend on the heart conviction

Matthew 5:10-16 #8 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.11 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. 13 "You are the salt of the earth; but

if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. amen