

Understanding Your Divine Inheritance and the Opposition to the Inheritance

Scripture: Matthew 5:16-20 (Amplified version)

I. Context

- Began ministry in Galilee (teaching, preaching, and healing – Matt. 4.23)
- Why? Jeremiah 17:9 – “The heart is deceitful above all things and it is extremely sick; who can understand it fully and know its secret motives?”
- Healing is tertiary (important, but not primary)
- Matthew 4.24 – people’s motives (physical healing)
- Matthew 5:1-2 – Beatitudes (teaching and preaching)

II. Divine Inheritable Promises in Beatitudes

A) Matt. 5:1-12 – Amplified (the reception of gifts)

- 1) “theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (v.3)
- 2) “they will be comforted” (v.4)
- 3) “they will inherit the earth” (v.5)
- 4) “they will be satisfied” (v.6)
- 5) “they will receive mercy” (v.7)
- 6) “they will see God” (v.8)
- 7) “they will be called sons of God” (v.9)

Understanding Your Divine Inheritance and the Opposition to the Inheritance

8)“theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (v.10)

9)“your reward in heaven is great” (v.12)

III. Characteristics of Divine Inheritance (Matt. 5:3, 16)

A)“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”

1)Teaching Juxtaposition

a)Man’s eyes = moral righteousness manifest in the eye of statutes and prosperity (Deut. 6:5-7, 10-11)

b)Jesus’s eyes = moral righteousness acquired for upholding God’s statutes

(A) 1 Samuel 16:7 – “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees; for the man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart”

2)“poor in spirit” = who are they?

a)Humble – no spiritual arrogance (devoid of hubris)

Understanding Your Divine Inheritance and the Opposition to the Inheritance

- b) Feelings of Personal Insignificance (socially and culturally)
- 3) “blessed” = happy, spiritually prosperous, being admired, and having God’s grace (signs of His grace)
 - a) “you are blessed” = Jesus speaking
 - b) Differential Behaviors of Possessing Blessedness
 - (A) Religious leaders = showcase blessings through ostentatious presentations or self-seeking agendas
 - (B) Spiritually poor = are not flaunty & no motive
- B) “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good **deeds** and **moral excellence**, and *glorify your Father who is in heaven*” (Matt. 5:16)
 - 1) “light” – on display
 - a) Key phrases – **deeds**, **moral excellency**, and *how God is glorified*
 - b) See John 15:8 – “My Father is glorified and honored by this, when you bear much fruit and prove yourselves to be *My disciples*”
 - c) See John 13:35 – “by this, everyone will know that you are *My disciples*, if **you have love and unselfish concern for one another**”

Understanding Your Divine Inheritance and the Opposition to the Inheritance

d) See 2 Peter 2:12 – “keep your **behavior** **excellent** among the Gentiles, so that for whatever reason they may slander you as evildoers, yet by observing your **good deeds**, *they may glorify God in the day of visitation* (God’s mercy)”

IV. Contrast to the Divine Inheritance and Opposition in Jesus’s Warnings

A) Matt. 5.17

- 1) Opposition’s Mission (Pharisees, Scribes, Sadducees, or other religious sects)
 - a) Restricted God’s mission through imposed religious teachings and traditions
 - b) Upheld importance of the Law through restrictions
 - c) Related understanding and practicality through rigorous, unmet objectives and condemnation
- 2) Inheritance’s Admonitions to be Aware
 - a) Purpose of Jesus’s mission: fulfill God’s word
 - b) Importance of the Law (Old Testament)
 - c) Relevance: understanding and practicality

Understanding Your Divine Inheritance and the Opposition to the Inheritance

- 3) Fulfillment – Lord’s work as a **teacher** (fill what is lacking)
 - a) Prophets as examples of ethical teachers (explain and spiritualize the Word)
- 4) God’s recommendation
 - a) Seek Himself (Jesus Christ)
 - b) Do not seek oppositional religious sects who (spiritually, emotionally, or physically) destroyed “the prophets”

B) Matt. 5. 18

- 1) Opposition
 - a) Those in authority who uphold their righteous moral standards through works and restrictions **MUST** remain
- 2) Inheritance
 - a) Every Word in the Bible **MUST** come to pass (God’s Word over man’s teachings)
 - b) God’s Word as more valuable and permanent than heaven and earth (weighing importance)
 - c) “jot” (Greek = “iota” and Hebrew = “yod”) is the smallest letters in the alphabet
(A) Emphasizes the weight of God’s Word

Understanding Your Divine Inheritance and the Opposition to the Inheritance

3) Takeaway – God’s Word is NOT to be tampered and must be handled with careful consideration

V. Practical Admonitions to God’s People (V19-20)

- A) Let the Holy Spirit be your Guide and Teacher
- B) Pay attention to Godly-ordained authority (those who uphold righteousness, love God, and love people and their enemies)
- C) Be a keen student of God’s Word
- D) Seek to please God and not man
- E) Repent when you fall short and pick back up the baton
- F) Pray for those who remain in authoritative arrogance
- G) Do NOT be the moral police (teacher – be a relater and lover of people = BE PRESENT)