

Matthew Chapter 5:1-20 (Beatitudes)

- Opening Comments – Prayer - Quick Recap of Matthew 1,3,4
- In Chapter 5 we find Jesus sitting on the hillside near the town of
- Capernaum, with His followers.
- He is explaining to the people who have come to hear Him,
- Including His disciples, on how we are meant to live our lives.
- He is teaching us what it means to be a citizen of God’s kingdom.
- And even though there isn’t a simple set of rules to live by,
- He wants us to have a transformation of our attitudes,
- Jesus wants to transform our outlook on life,
- And ultimately, He wants us to be more like Him.
- **1Cor: 11:1 – Follow my example as I follow the example of Jesus Christ.**
- Jesus is demanding from us a righteousness that far exceeded
- That of the scribes and the Pharisees.
- Read Matthew 5:1-20
- The first we need to once again clarify is that Jesus did not come
- To abolish the law - He came to fulfill it.
- And to make it clear to us that we could receive the righteousness
- Of our Lord and Savior, when we made Him the Lord of our Life.
- Beatitudes comes from the Latin word “beatitude” means blessedness.
- And the word blessed implies a state of happiness or of well-being.
- **The Beatitudes are statements of blessing which do two things.**
- 1. They underline the difference between human values and God’s values.
- 2. And they call us to view life and success in God’s way.
- It’s important to understand that It is not calling not more righteousness
- Deeds by human actions, but for us to have righteous hearts
- By His divine grace. Six times in Mat 5:21-48,
- You have heard that it was said... but I tell you.....
- Right there.... We need to do what Jesus tells us and no one else.
- And this exceeding righteousness should be evident by:

- Our Attitudes - Our Desires - Our Ambitions - And our relationships.
- His message held a powerful meaning of divine joy and perfect happiness.
- To paraphrase you could say that Jesus was telling them that those who
- Possessed these inward qualities were divinely happy and fortunate.
- And don't we feel more joy in our hearts, when we live the right way?
- **Jesus gave us the Beatitudes for two reasons:**
- 1. To give us a path to life that leads to the kingdom of heaven.
- 2. And to provide peace through the trials and tribulations we face in life.
- And every one of us could use more peace in our turbulent lives.
- When Jesus preached this there were 4 main groups of Jews:
- The Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, and the Zealots, who each had their
- Own viewpoints on life and eternity.
- The Pharisees were very strict observers of the Mosaic Law.
- The Sadducees were the same, but rejected all oral tradition. (Mishna)
- The Essenes were still waiting for a Savior to come and establish
- An earthly kingdom and free them from oppression.
- And the Zealots were militant, and wanted freedom from their homeland.
- The 10 Commandments gave a list of "don't do's" to steer us from evil.
- Here, we are getting a list of things that we need to do.
- Jesus wanted to present His message, and his message was about
- Being humble. It was about being charitable.
- It was about loving one another.
- And the need we have to transform ourselves to be more like Jesus.

"Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

- Poor in Spirit means to be humble,
- It's coming to God with a broken and contrite spirit.
- It's having a spiritual poverty, which means that we are completely
- Empty and open to the word of God.
- It's knowing that all our blessings and gifting come directly from God
- For we should be hungry and want to be filled with God's Word.

- It's to be totally void of pride and to be filled with humility.
- It's to have a heart that seeks help and forgiveness from God,
- For God wants no one to perish..
- Being poor in Spirit is a huge qualification for the kingdom
- The Kingdom of heaven refers to those who acknowledged God as king.
- It's totally different to the world wants us to have, which is self-sufficiency
- Again, as Paul told us in Philippians, we are not to be bound to man,
- But to 100% bound to Jesus.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

- Mourning means to feel or express a great sadness for the death
- Or loss of someone or something.
- And I think here mourning is to expressing deep sorrow over all the sins
- Of our lives, realizing that we are indeed poor in spirit.
- How many times in our lives do we think back on some+of our sins,
- Our words and actions that have hurt others,
- And how we still mourn those to this very day and time.
- But there is a great freedom when we repent of our sins.
- There is great comfort in knowing that we have been forgiven.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth"

- Being meek is humbling ourselves to the authority of God.
- When we submit to God, we become heirs to His kingdom.
- Meekness doesn't mean weakness.
- It's not being stubborn with pride –
- Meekness is to submit to the will of our king
- It's becoming more gentle and kind,
- It's to exhibit the character of self-control.
- Being meek is to walk humbly before God.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

- Hunger and thirst are very strong feelings.

- When we say that we are starving, we have a need to be satisfied,
- And the same for when we are thirsty we have a need to be filled.
- This righteousness refers to Jesus, who is in fact our righteousness.
- We have a strong longing for Jesus and for him to satisfy our soul.
- Justice and righteousness indicate the fullness of Christ in our hearts.
- It's not just observing the law, but it's also loving one another.
- It is for us to live our lives in a moral and just manner.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."

- Mercy is to exhibit a loving nature to those who suffer distress.
- And everyone of us wants to feel the mercy of God,
- And in turn we should be forgiving and merciful as well.
- It can be shown by our actions and our deeds,
- To bring peace in our relationships with one another
- We need to show love, compassion, and forgiveness.
- In the Lord's prayer we ask for forgiveness
- And make a promise that we will forgive others
- We will reap what we sow. **Matthew 25:41-46 – Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'** ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."

- Jesus told us the pure of heart shall see God.
- To be pure of heart we need to be free of our selfish and self-seeking
- Intentions and desires. It's to be cleansed from within.
- It's to do something kind without seeking human rewards.
- It's not outward righteousness that men can see,

- It's the righteousness that only God can see.
- Having a pure heart is to be selfless, and to totally seek God in our hearts

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.”

- Peace is one of the fruits of the Spirit called out in Galatians 5:22
- We can only find peace with God through Jesus Christ
- **2 Cor. 5:19-20 says, “God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them.” We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.”**
- It's about living a peaceful life and bringing peace to others
- All those who bring peace are children of God.
- We should all strive to be peacemakers.

“Blessed are those who will be persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

- **11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.” 12 “Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”**
- Jesus told His followers that they would be persecuted as well
- There was much suffering in the days of the early church
- Steven was stoned, Peter was crucified, and many sawed in half.
- They were beaten and many put to death.
- But those who endured because of their faith,
- Not hiding their righteousness to avoid persecution are the true
- And loyal Christ followers.
- Where are we when it comes to the Beatitudes?
- Are we still slogging through the muck and the weeds?
- Have we been transformed into more of a likeness with Jesus Christ?
- How are our hearts? - Are we truly blessed? Or do we have a way to go?
- Perhaps it's a time where we examine our hearts and reflect
- On where we can improve,
- So we can live a life that is circumspect, and pleasing to God.