

# The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:1-12

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## INTRODUCTION:

- A. Lesson Text: **Matthew 5:1-12**
- B. The Beatitudes, being eight in number, set before us the victories of the Christ life.
1. They demand a philosophy of life . . . A standard of behavior . . . And a spiritual resource of divine power.
  2. They leave us awed . . . And a times dismayed, for the Beatitudes demand absolute, undiluted perfection.
  3. They sound simple enough . . . But the application of them is challenging.
- C. The only person to who ever lived the perfect kind of life embodied in the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount, was our Lord and Savior – Jesus Christ.
1. He lived His life openly . . . Before His family . . . Before His friends . . . Before His foes . . . Before His Heavenly Father . . . Before the ages . . . Day after day . . . Every moment He drew breath on this planet.
  2. In so doing, Jesus demonstrated that the principles embodied in the Beatitudes were not empty idealism of a dreamer . . . But rather they were tested in the red hot crucible of a life ended at Calvary.
  3. Jesus demonstrated for all time that these principles could be obediently lived by those still in the flesh . . . And lived daily on the earth.
- D. These Beatitudes are not multiple choice . . . Pick what you like and leave the rest. They must be taken as a whole.
- E. There are least four ways to understand the Beatitudes:
1. They are a code of ethics for the disciples and a standard of conduct for all believers.
  2. They contrast Kingdom values (what is eternal) with worldly values (what is temporary).
  3. They contrast the superficial “faith” of the Pharisees with the real faith that Christ demands.
  4. They show how the Old Testament expectations will be fulfilled in the new kingdom . . . The Church.
- F. The order and orientation of the Beatitudes provide several key insights.
1. The Beatitudes begin and end with the promise of the kingdom of heaven (5:3,10).
  2. They progress from the point of greatest need (spiritual bankruptcy) to the point of greatest identification with Christ (experiencing rejection for his sake).

3. The first four beatitudes outline a deepening relationship with God; the second four depict the impact of our relations to others.
4. Clearly, the Beatitudes are not stages through which we pass and go on, but responses that we must keep on making.
5. Each day we must utilize our opportunities to show mercy, practice peacemaking, and purify our intentions.

**G. The Beatitudes should always BE OUR ATTITUDE.**

**SUBMISSION. 5:3**

- A. **MATTHEW 5:3** – “God blesses those who realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is given to them.”
- B. If you want to live for God, you must be ready to say and do what seems strange to the world.
  1. You must be willing to give when others take.
  2. You must be willing to love when others hate.
  3. You must be willing to help when others abuse.
- C. Matthew 5:3
- D. The poor in spirit realize that they cannot please God on their own. They are "poor" or "bankrupt" inwardly, unable to give anything of value to God and thus must depend on his mercy.

**SORROW. 5:4**

- A. **MATTHEW 5:4** – “God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”
- B. Mourning generally accompanies sad times and events in our lives.
  1. Whether Jesus' followers mourn for sin or in suffering, God's promise is sure -- they will be comforted.
  2. Only God can take away sorrow for sin; only God can forgive and erase it.
  3. Only God can give comfort to those who suffer for his sake because they know their reward in the kingdom. There he will "wipe away every tear from their eyes" (**REVELATION 7:17**)

**SALVATION. 5:5**

- A. **MATTHEW 5:5** – “God blesses those who are gentle and lowly, for the whole earth will belong to them.”
  1. Jesus used the "earth" to refer to the future inheritance of the kingdom.
  2. Matthew 5:5
  3. Meek people realize their position before God and gladly live it out before their fellow humans
- B. Isn't it easier for a gentle person to practice the Golden Rule than one who is not?

**SATISFACTION.** 5:6

- A. **MATTHEW 5:6** – “God blesses those who are hungry and thirsty for justice, for they will receive it in full.”
- B. The words "hunger and thirst" picture intense longings that people desire to satisfy -- necessities that they cannot live without.
- C. The fourth beatitude bridges the God-centered concerns of the first three and the neighbor-centered focus of the last four. The appetites and satisfaction Jesus promised were directed at both external and internal desires. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness experience that longing in at least three forms:
  1. The desire to be righteous -- to be forgiven and accepted by God; to be right with God.
  2. The desire to do what is right -- to do what God commands; imitating and reflecting God's righteousness.
  3. The desire to see right done -- to help bring about God's will in the world.

**SYMPATHY** 5:7

- A. **MATTHEW 5:7** – “God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”
- B. Merciful people realize that, because they received mercy from God, they must extend mercy to others.
  1. This promise does not guarantee mercy in return from people
  2. The Christian's' comfort comes in the knowledge that, no matter how the world treats them, God will show them mercy both now and when they enter Heaven.

**SANCTIFICATION.** 5:8

- A. **MATTHEW 5:8** – “God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.”
- B. People characterized as pure in heart are morally pure, honest, and sincere. Matthew 5:8
  1. They are people of integrity and single-minded commitment to God.
  2. Moral purity, honesty, and integrity come only through such a commitment. In turn, people committed totally to God will seek to be morally clean.
  3. Because of their sincere devotion to Christ, they will see God and be acceptable to Him.
- C. Purity is a part of the life set aside for God.

**SOUL-WINNING.** 5:9

- A. **MATTHEW 5:9** – “God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be

called the children of God.”

- B. Jesus came as "the Prince of Peace" (**ISAIAH 9:6-7**) and gave the ultimate sacrifice to bring peace between God and humanity.
1. God calls his children to be peacemakers.
  2. This involves action, not just passive compliance.
  3. Peacemakers do more than just live peaceful lives; they actively seek to "make peace," to cause reconciliation, to end bitterness and strife.
  4. We do this, in part, through evangelism and soul-winning.
  5. Make Biblical peace you aim in life.

## **SUFFERING.** 5:10-12

- A. **MATTHEW 5:10-12** - “God blesses those who are persecuted because they live for God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.  
 11 God blesses you when you are mocked and persecuted and lied about because you are my followers.  
 12 Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted, too.”
- B. The world is under Satan's control, and believers belong to the opposing army.
- C. God will make up for the suffering that his children have undergone because of their loyalty to him.
- D. In verse 11, Jesus switched to the second person, focusing his comments directly at his listening disciples.
1. Jesus was telling his disciples that they shouldn't be surprised when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.
  2. Jesus would face such treatment . . . And so shall His followers.
- E. Persecution can be good because:
1. It takes our eyes off earthly rewards.
  2. It strips away superficial belief.
  3. It strengthens the faith of those who endure.
  4. Our attitude through it serves as an example to others who follow.
- F. A person with righteous character can rejoice and be glad because of the promise: Your reward is great in heaven.

## **CONCLUSION:**

- A. We are not asked to imitate Christ through our own power. The Christ who gave His life **for** us also gave His life **to** us.
- B. **The Beatitudes should always BE OUR ATTITUDE.**
- C. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**