

The Beatitudes  
Matthew 5:1-16

“The Character and Witness of the Citizens of the Kingdom”

I. Introduction

A. The preamble to the Sermon on the Mount

1. The theme of the sermon is “The Kingdom of Heaven”
2. Each Beatitude has three parts to it.
  - a. an ascription of blessedness
  - b. a description of the character of the person blessed
  - c. a explanation for this blessedness

B. Jesus teaches how one enters into the Kingdom and how one lives as a Kingdom citizen

1. To enter the Kingdom is to enter into life
2. Matt. 7:13 -
3. Matt.19:14.16 –

C. The ascription of “blessedness”

1. *Makarios* – happy in spite of circumstances
2. Those who are blessed will generally be profoundly happy, but blessedness can not be reduced to happiness.
3. We can bless God and God can bless us – thus, “blessed” means fundamentally, to be approved by God, to find approval.
4. Whose blessings do you seek?
5. God’s blessing is always correlated with the condition of each Beatitude.

C. The first and last Beatitude promise the same thing

1. An “inclusion” - everything bracketed between the two can really be included under one theme, in this case, the Kingdom of Heaven.
2. The Beatitudes are “The Norms of the Kingdom”

**II. Seeing yourself in reality - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (5.3)**

- A. Poverty of spirit is the personal acknowledgment of spiritual bankruptcy.
1. It is the conscious confession of unworthy before God
  2. It is the deepest form of repentance
  3. It is not about our worth or ontological significance but rather a confession that we are sinful and rebellious and utterly without moral virtues adequate to commend ourselves to God.
  4. It is a person's general confession of one's need for God, a humble admission of impotence without Him
- B. We learn at the very outset of The Sermon on the Mount that we do not have the spiritual resources to put any of the Sermon's precepts into practice.
1. We cannot fulfill God's standards ourselves.
  2. We must come to Him and acknowledge our spiritual bankruptcy, emptying ourselves of our self-righteousness, moral self-esteem, and personal vainglory.
  3. Emptied of these things we are ready for Him to fill us with His grace.
- C. Progression of Scriptures:
1. Matthew 6:1-34 – two kingdoms contrasted; freedom versus frustration and identity versus security.
  2. Genesis 3:1-7 – why we cannot see in reality
  3. Genesis 5:3 – in his own likeness not God's
  4. Romans 1:18-25 –
  5. Romans 1:26-32 –
  6. John 1:1-18 –
  7. Colossians 1:15-20 –
  8. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 –
  9. Ephesians 5:13-14 –
  10. James 1:22-25 –
  11. Luke 18:9-14 –
  12. Colossians 1:13 –
  13. Ephesians 5:8 –
  14. 2 Corinthians 3:12-18 –

`D. Summary:

Seeing ourselves as God sees us by the light of Christ and His Word, recognizing our rebellion, sin and total need for Christ, His life, and His righteousness, we turn away from ourselves and submitting to Christ as Lord of our lives, we trust Him for the resources of His life and are transferred from the realm of darkness and illusion to His Kingdom of reality and light