

Matthew 5: 3-10

Be-ATTITUDES

8 STATEMENTS OF BLESSED FAITH FOR A CHRISTIAN



Blessedness of Poverty

Blessedness of mourning

Blessedness of Meekness

Blessedness of hunger and thirst

for righteousness

Blessedness of mercifulness

Blessedness of purity of heart

Blessedness of being peacemakers

Blessedness of persecution

“In any given generation, only a handful of people make a lasting impression on the world that lasts more than a few years. The person who stands out above all others is Jesus Christ. However, His Teachings have not had a corresponding effect on man’s actions”

Historian, Will Durant

The sermon on the mount is probably the best-known, but least understood and least followed, of all the teachings of Jesus

Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

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

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.


"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

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

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when men reviled you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you."



North shore of
the sea of
Galilee

Beatitudes

- Latin word, “beatus”
 - Greek, “makarios”, Hebrew “asher”
 - *Makarios=Fortunate, enviable state, joy, hope, deepest form of happiness*
 - Not one English word is sufficient
- 'Makarios describes that joy which has its secret in itself, that joy which is serene and untouchable, and self contained-completely independent of all the chances and Changes of life". -David Padfield*

The Beatitudes: Separating the children of God from the rest

What they are not

Not an extension of the Law

A code of ethics, rules

An improvement of previous life

Live like this, and you will be a Christian

Threats, terrors

Menu

For some different type of Christians

What they are

Strong meat for mature Christians

A celebration of true Christian life

An invitation to a radical change of ATTITUDES

Because you are a Christian, live like this

Friendly, joyful

“served” whole

For all Christians

Three groups of people who heard Jesus...



1. How did the disciples hear this?

"O how fortunate you are, my dear brothers! O how fortunate you are to be chosen of God, to have your eyes opened, to be drawn to the Savior, to be poor in spirit; mourning about your sins; meek and hungry and merciful and pure and peaceable! Rejoice! Rejoice and give thanks, my beloved disciples, that you are this kind of person, for it is not your own doing! It is the reign of God in your life." So the disciples hear the beatitudes as words of celebration about the work of God in their lives.

4. *And us*

"Blessed! Blessed! And fortunate are we who have the kingdom power at work within us, for we possess the kingdom with all its infinite pleasures forever and ever

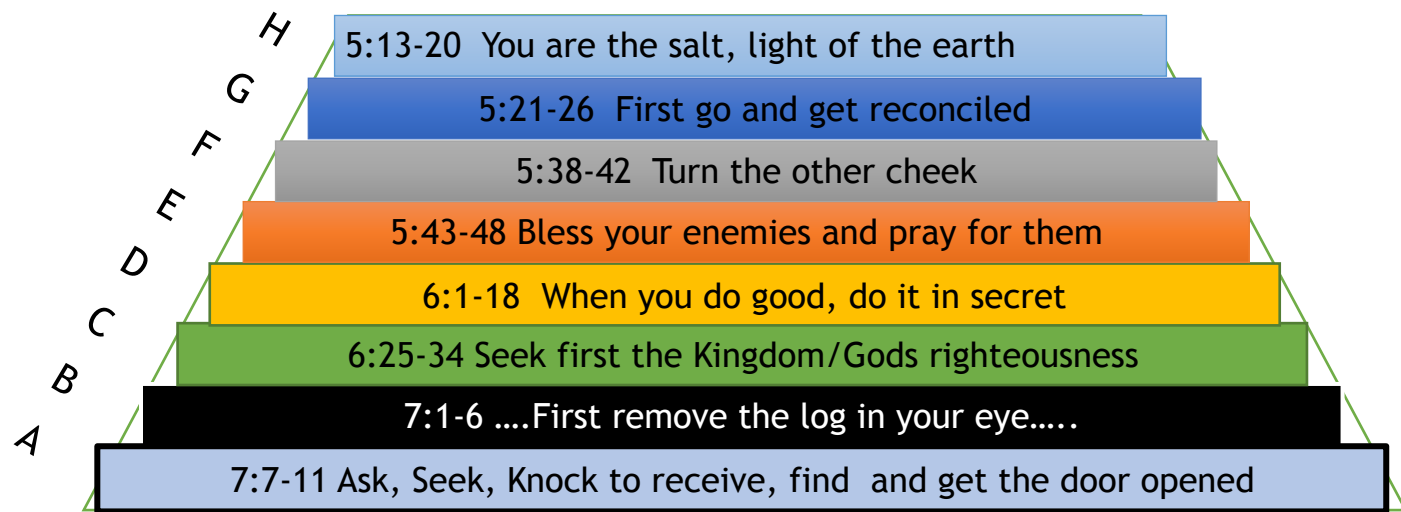
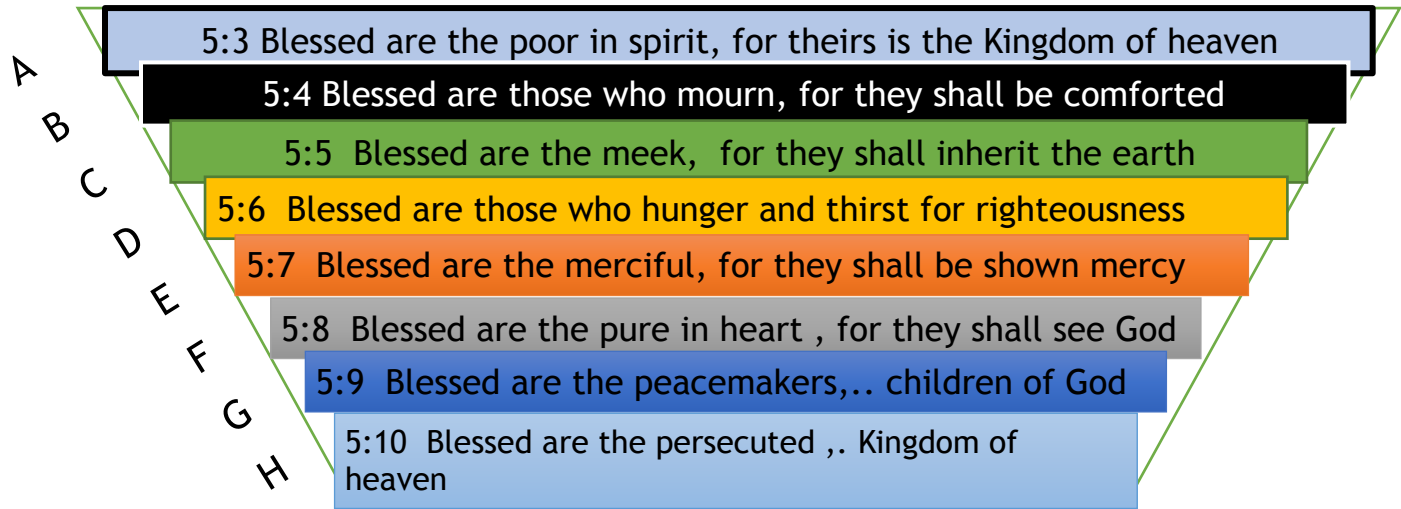
- The beatitudes are announcements that people like us are very blessed, very fortunate
- But do we feel this?

Beatitude		Explanation within the Sermon	
Matthew 5:3	<i>Poor in spirit</i>	Matthew 7:7-11	“Ask, Seek, Knock...”
Matthew 5:4	<i>Mourn</i>	Matthew 7:1-6	“Log in your eye”
Matthew 5:5	<i>Meek</i>	Matthew 6: 25-34	“Seek first the Kingdom”
Matthew 5:6	<i>Hunger/Thirst for God</i>	Matthew 6:1-18	“Do good in secret”
Matthew 5:7	<i>Merciful</i>	Matthew 5:43-48	“Bless your enemies”
Matthew 5:8	<i>Pure in Heart</i>	Matthew 5:38-42	“Turn the other cheek”

Chiasmic Style

ABCDEFGHIJ HGFEDCBA

Matthew 5:10	<i>Persecuted</i>	Matthew 5:13-20	“You are salt, light”
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1. Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven: Matthew 5: 3

- “Blessed are the *pto-khos*’ ; a beggar (as cringing), that is, pauper (strictly denoting absolute or public mendicancy)” (Strong’s Dictionary)
 - Not poor-spirited (no enthusiasm, no motivation)
 - Not necessarily materially poor
 - Not a suppression of your personality
- But emptying of oneself
- It is the easiest condition-- What could be easier than having an empty hand?
- and hardest, because we come clutching a personal "bill of rights"

Examples

Abraham

- In dealing with the Lord about Sodom and Gomorrah, he said, "Behold, I have taken upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes" ([Genesis 18:27](#)).

Moses

- "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt? . . . Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either heretofore or since thou hast spoken to thy servant; but I am slow of speech and of tongue" ([Exodus 3:11](#); [4:10](#)).

Why did God get angry with Moses?

- **Gideon**—(Judges 6:15)
- **Paul**—everything was “rubbish” after meeting Jesus 1 Cor 2:1-
- **Peter**—Luke 5: 8 “*Depart from me , am a sinful man*”

David

- "The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" ([Psalm 51:17](#)).
- "Who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from thee, and of thy own have we given thee" ([1 Chronicles 29:14](#)).
- When we are doing badly and when we are doing well. We are still poor in spirit

The Pharisee and the tax collector

"But the tax collector, standing far off, he would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you this man went down to his house justified" ([Luke 18:13-14](#)).

- The Pharisee thought he needed nothing and that is exactly what he got
- He forgot that the tithes he boasted about had come from God
- Thought that God was lucky to have him on His side
- The tax collector's only hope was to throw himself on the mercy of God

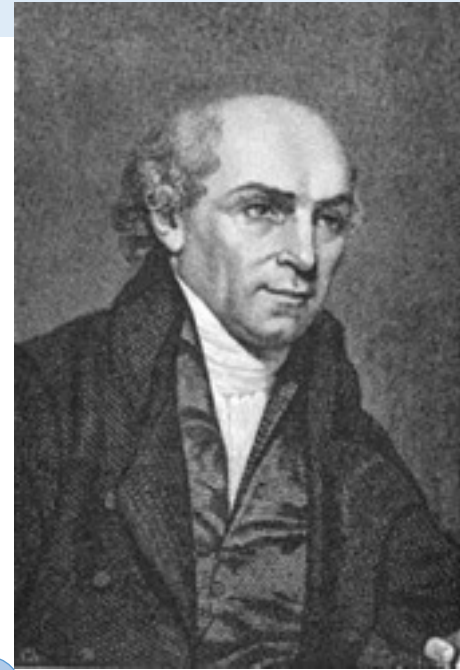
What then is the Poverty of Spirit?

- It is a sense of powerlessness in ourselves.
- It is a sense of spiritual bankruptcy and helplessness before God.
- It is a sense of moral uncleanness before God.
- It is a sense of personal unworthiness before God.
- It is a sense that if there is to be any life or joy or usefulness, it will have to be all of God and all of grace.

“SENSE” because objectively speaking, everybody is poor in spirit, but not everybody is blessed

WILLIAM CAREY

- A homely man, suffering from recurrent fever, limping for years from an injury in 1817, and yet putting the entire Bible into six languages and parts of it into 29 other language
- What was the secret of this man's usefulness and productivity for the kingdom?



William Carey

Born August 17th, 1761

Died June 9th, 1834

A wretched, poor, and
helpless worm,

On Thy kind arms I fall.

Rock of ages-hymn

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which
flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath and make me
pure.

2. Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite
know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou
alone.

3. Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die

4. While I draw this fleeting breath,
When my eyes shall close in death,
When I rise to worlds unknown,
And behold Thee on Thy throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.