THE KINGS SERMON

On Earth As It Is In Heaven

The Spiritual Attributes and Blessings of Kingdom Life, Part II Matthew 5:7-11

Big Idea: The beatitudes are spiritual attributes of those who have entered the kingdom of heaven through Christ.

To be "blessed" means, fundamentally, to be approved or to find approval. It refers to the ultimate well-being and spiritual joy of those who share in the salvation of the kingdom of heaven.

Three truths about the beatitudes:

- (1) This is what we are to be like as Christians.
- (2) Not one of these characteristics is the natural bent of our hearts.
- (3) These attributes make us distinct from those who do not follow Christ.

Beatitudes:

- (5) Blessed are the merciful (v. 7)
 - 7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
 - To be "merciful" means to be one who extends forgiveness to those who hurt them and to show
 compassion for those who are suffering.
 It is to personally realization that God has been merciful to me and that I should be merciful to others.
 - Christ's death on the cross was a merciful act.

Ephesians 2:4-5

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

a. They forgive (Matt. 6:12-15; 18:21-35).

Matthew 6:12-15

12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. 14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

- b. They serve and give (Luke 10:25-37).
- (6) Blessed are the pure in heart (v. 8)
 - 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

To be "pure in heart" means to be one who purses moral purity, maintains loyalty, and lives with integrity.

It is to personally understand that my heart is a battleground that must be diligently guarded.

Proverbs 4:23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

a. They pursue moral purity.

Matthew 15:19

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

b. They maintain loyalty.

Matthew 7:21

Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, But the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

c. They live with Integrity.

7 You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: 8 "
'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; 9 in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' "

> Impure motives: Giving (Matthew 6:2), Prayer (Matt. 6:5), Fasting (Matt. 6:16)

(7) Blessed are the peacemakers (v. 9)

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

• To be a "peacemaker" means to be one who actively seeks to reconcile people to God and to one another.

It is to personally understand that I have peace with God through Christ and that I should proclaim the gospel of peace to others.

a. They seek to reconcile people to God (Isa. 52:7; Rom. 10:13-17; 2 Cor. 5:18-20).

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

b. They seek to reconcile people to one another (Rom. 12:18; Eph. 4:3; Phil. 4:2-3; James 3:17-18).

James 3:17-18

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

(8) Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake (vv. 10-11)

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

- To be "persecuted for righteousness' sake" means that one is following Jesus and living in conformity to His will.
- It is to personally understand that when I live a godly life, I will suffer persecution.

2 Timothy. 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

The cause of persecution:

a. They are living a righteous life (v. 10).

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

1 Peter 3:14-17

14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and

respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

b. They are following Jesus (vv. 11-12).

11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

1 Peter 4:12-16

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.