

Start our series on the sermon on the mount – The longest sermon in the entire Bible

This is the best sermon ever spoken – Matthew 5-7 = Most powerful sermon EVER

Amazing...15 minutes read – We are going to preach it in just over 14 hours x23 sermons

The first 12 verses of the Sermon on the Mount are the Beatitudes

Beatitudes = Describe the values, character, and attitudes that mark believers | 5 Purposes

- To define true blessedness** - Happiness and fulfillment not found primarily in wealth, power, or status, but in qualities such as humility, mercy, purity, and peacemaking
- To reveal the values of God's kingdom** - Beatitudes often reverse worldly expectations. For example, the poor in spirit, the meek, and those who mourn are called blessed
- To guide moral and spiritual living** - Model for Christian character, encouraging believers to cultivate compassion, righteousness, forgiveness, and faithfulness.
- To offer hope and encouragement** - Many Beatitudes contain promises ("they shall be comforted," "they shall inherit the earth," "they shall see God") - Reassure people
- To point toward a relationship with God** - The Beatitudes emphasize inner transformation rather than mere outward religious behavior,

In summary, the Beatitudes are meant to show what life in God's kingdom looks like, who God calls blessed, and how believers are to live in response to Him – Tackle 4 of the 8

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Beatitudes upside down thinking...opposite of what the world thinks...impossible/possible

1954 – Roger Banister attempted the impossible – Breaking 4-minute mile – 3.59.4

Others quickly followed...he had shown them it could be done - 2,349 | 3.42.6

Impossible became possible because someone had shown them a different way of thinking

Jesus...more profound...Challenges the way people think about a **blessed life**

Jesus doesn't say, "Blessed are the rich, the powerful, the successful, and the comfortable."

Poor in Spirit – Those who Mourn – The Meek – Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

Big Idea - Christ's Kingdom Transforms Who We Are

Transforms: Character – Heart – Posture – Desires | **From thinking like a sinner to the saved**

Give you four decisions have to make...beatitudes are about choosing world or kingdom

1. Choose: Christ over Conceit

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. | Not conceited...confident

Conceit = Relying on your own wisdom, thinking better than others, too much pride

- Over-confidence: Trusting your own thoughts more than God's truth – How stupid
 - False Wisdom: Believing you are righteous when you are actually foolish | 2 steps
- Recognize Your Spiritual Poverty** - does not mean low self-esteem / thinking worthless

Recognizing that spiritually, you have nothing with which to purchase God's favor

People who barter with God – If you give me X I'll give you Y – What have you got?!?

Sinners who need mercy - Can't save ourselves – Make ourselves righteous – Earn Favor

Proud = "I can handle my relationship with God." | Poor = "God, I need You!"

Before Christ can become your Savior, you must recognize your need for a Savior

Guy crashed by a wave – Jet ski – You're doing a really good job! Needed Rescuing

Sinners don't need encouragement to become spiritually self-sufficient. We need Christ

- Receive Christ's Kingdom** - for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. | Poor in spirit inherit Heaven
Kingdom belongs to those who abandon self-reliance & come Christ in humble dependence

When you stop trying to be your own savior, you discover the Savior you desperately need

Christ offers: Forgiveness instead of guilt - Righteousness instead of condemnation

Grace instead of merit - Adoption instead of alienation – Eternal live instead Damnation

The way into Christ's kingdom is through the recognition that I am spiritually bankrupt

The Office – 'I Declare Bankruptcy' | Have you declared bankruptcy?

2. Choose: Authenticity over Appearances

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. | Not over loss...over sin

- Christ calls us to exchange appearance of strength for the authenticity of brokenness
- Those who honestly mourn over sin will experience the comfort of God

Culture teaches us manage appearances - Smile when hurting | Strength when breaking

- Come to church, sing, Bibles, shake hands, say the right things while hiding our hearts
It sounds strange. Why would Jesus call mourners blessed?

Because Jesus is teaching us that God blesses the person who honestly mourns over sin

a. Acknowledge Your Brokenness - The word "mourn" describes deep grief

- Jesus is not talking about having a bad day or being disappointed by circumstances
- He is describing a heart that is genuinely broken over sin and its consequences
⇒ Acknowledge the reality of sin - Sin is not making mistakes – Rebellion holy God
Know what we don't have? Religious Oopsie Daisies...have deliberate acts of disobedience
- The authentic Christian does not say, "I'm basically a good person."

- Authentic Christian, "Apart from Christ, I am a sinner who desperately needs grace."
⇒ Acknowledge the seriousness of sin - What the world calls normal, Scripture calls sin
Living with someone – Pornography – Immodesty - Materialism – Crude Speech...all sin
How serious is sin? Eden – Hell | How serious is sin? Jesus die on a cross...sin is serious

b. Reject Your Pretenses - Because mourning requires honesty | Three steps to mourning

- ⇒ Stop pretending - God already knows what is happening in your heart
 - You don't have to impress Him - You don't have to pretend before Him
God cannot heal the heart we refuse to expose
- ⇒ Stop comparing - Spiritual health isn't measured by you're better than someone else
 - The standard isn't your neighbor - The standard is Christ | Compare...pretty well!
When we look at the holiness of God, we recognize our need for grace
- ⇒ Start confessing - Authenticity means being honest before God

Proverbs 28:13 says that the one who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but the one who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy | Asking For Repentance

- Recognition and Confession – Acknowledge | Take Responsibility | Verbalize Confession
- Remorse and Restitution – Genuine Sorrow | Seek Forgiveness | Make Amends
- Reformation and Transformation – Change the Behavior | Give Yourself Grace

Confession isn't weakness...confession is the doorway to restoration

c. Accept God's Comfort - for they shall be comforted.

- Jesus doesn't simply tell us to mourn - He tells us that mourning leads to comfort
⇒ Christ comforts the repentant - Person mourns over sin can run to Christ, not away
⇒ Christ comforts through forgiveness - "My sin is real, but God's grace is greater."
⇒ Christ comforts with hope – Heaven | Present mourning will give way eternal comfort

Go to the doctor refuses to tell them what is wrong | acknowledge sickness...get cure
Sin that is hidden cannot be properly confronted - Sin that is confessed can be met with God's grace

3. Choose: Lowly over Loftiness ⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Loftiness is always condemned in the Bible – Jeremiah 48:29...speaking of Moab

"We have heard of the pride of Moab—he is very proud—of his loftiness"

Hebrew term used implies a sense of being elevated in one's own estimation

- This superiority led them to mock or look down on neighboring nations, including Israel
Loftiness describes human pride or self-exaltation that stands opposed to God

We are not called to be lofty...we are called to be meek – What is meekness?

Meekness is not weakness it is strength under control | Playing soccer with your kids

Num. 12:3 “Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.”

Confronted Pharaoh | Stood before Israel | Acted decisively when God commanded him

- Submit to God rather than exalting yourself* - Meekness means I don't have to make myself important because I trust God to establish my worth and position
 - Trust God's authority rather than demanding your own way* - Meekness means surrendering my desire to control and trusting that God's way is better mine
- Meekness Means: When God says “wait,” we wait. When God says “no,” we trust.

When God leads somewhere difficult, we follow

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. – Mormons now...we get our own planet

Share in the blessings and kingdom rule that God will establish over the renewed earth

Revelation 21-22 | New Heavens and New Earth | Meek lost in this world...rise up w/Christ

Sailboat doesn't create wind - **submits to the wind**...determine its direction | Word / Spirit

Submit to God rather than exalting yourself

4. **Choose: Righteousness over resources**

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

True satisfaction comes when righteousness becomes more valuable than worldly resources

World: More money – Possessions – Success – Recognition – Comfort | More Righteousness

- Prioritize Righteousness Over Riches* – rich wealth not a problem...poor in righteousness

Conformity to a standard—specifically, the moral and relational standard of God's character

College athlete – Curfew – GPA – Practice Schedule – Workout Schedule – No Partying

Righteousness is being right with God and doing right by others...biblically

- Jesus describes righteousness as something we should hunger and thirst for
- Hunger and thirst are not casual desires - They are deep necessities – **HANGRY**
Have you ever been really thirsty? Putting together a trampoline...140 Degrees...pass out
Desire righteousness like a starving person desires food and a thirsty person desires water
- Pursue Holiness Over Happiness* – choosing pleases God over feels good in the moment
Happiness not wrong...happiness becomes dangerous when we make it our highest goal
- Sometimes doing what is righteous will make you uncomfortable – **Praying unbelieving**
- Sometimes Holiness require you to say no to something you desperately want – **Joke**
- Sometimes doing honors God will make your life harder rather than easier – **Parenting Hungry** – Bag of Sour Patch Kids – Moment satisfied...not nourished | Full vs Healthy

You can fill your life with entertainment, possessions, pleasure, and still have a starving soul

Do I want what feels good, or do I want what is good?

- Receive God's Satisfaction Over Worldly Success* - **for they shall be satisfied**

If you hunger and thirst for righteousness God will fill your belly! Worldly Success Never Satisfies

Money – Accomplishments – Recognition – Possessions...all fleeting | **Mountain...finish line**

- God satisfies what success cannot – Righteousness become pursuit...God Satisfaction
“I want to know God...please God...become more like Christ...life to be right with God.”

Want to be right with God? Choose Christ over Conceit – Authenticity over Appearance

Lowliness over Loftiness – Righteousness over Resources

Big Idea - Christ's Kingdom Transforms Who We Are