

SALT + LIGHT



NOTES

for today's message

- The Sermon on the Mount is about God's Kingdom—how we can fit into the agenda of Jesus, not the other way around.
- Matthew wants us to see that often what draws us to Jesus is not devotion for who He is, but what He can do for us.

MATTHEW 4:23 And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

What does Matthew say Jesus was doing?

1. *Preaching about the coming Kingdom*
2. *Teaching the way of the Kingdom*
3. *Healing to show the power of the Kingdom*

MATTHEW 9:35 And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.

- Matthew is pointing out that the Jesus who teaches the Sermon on the Mount is the same Jesus who performs the miracles of healing.
- You can't pick and choose which version of Jesus you believe in.

MATTHEW 5:2-12 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. 7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. 10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 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.

- This introduction is called the Beatitudes

- The Beatitudes are often viewed as individual requirements for being blessed by God. Instead, they are to be viewed as a unit.
- Not 8 separate conditional blessings

2 SECTIONS OF THE BEATITUDES

1. Justification - Vertical Relationship with God
2. Sanctification - Horizontal Relationship with others

HOW THE GOSPEL IS UNFOLDED IN THESE CHARACTERISTICS:

1. Poor in spirit

- Blessed is the person that gets to the point in their life where they realize they are spiritually bankrupt.
- It is a blessing to be at a place where you learn you need a Savior.
- Jesus says blessed, fortunate are those who realize they have nothing apart from Him.

2. Mourning

- Jesus says 'blessed are you when you come to rock bottom and realize you have to mourn your sin and be comforted by The Gospel.
- Blessed are those who realize they need Jesus.

3. Meek

- Jesus is saying 'blessed are those who hand over the reigns of their lives to a true Master.'
- It is a blessing to become someone who repents and surrenders to Jesus.

4. Hungry

- He's saying 'blessed are those who hunger for the Lord and can never get enough.'
- Blaise Pascal - God made us with a God shaped hole, and nothing else can fill that hole.
- Augustine- Thou madest us for Thyself and our heart is restless until it rests in You.

5. Merciful

- Blessed are you when you have been overwhelmed by the forgiveness and mercy of God and you begin to show forgiveness and mercy to others

6. Pure in heart

- You're blessed when knowing Jesus gives you a heart for what He desires

7. Peacemakers

- Peacemakers will be so close to God that they will be recognizable as his sons and daughters
- "Sons of God" meaning that we will look and act like God himself.

8. Persecuted

- You're blessed if you realize you are broke without Jesus.

EZEKIEL 36:26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

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.

MATTHEW 5:11-12 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.

MATTHEW 7:21-23 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. 22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'



STUDY GUIDE

questions for later

Discussion:

1. What's one idea from the message that really stood out to you? Why did this idea grab your attention?

2. **Reality check:** The Beatitudes are often viewed as eight individual requirements for being blessed by God. Instead, they should be viewed as a unit, as the heart transformation that occurs as a result of the Gospel. The first four deal with your vertical relationship with God,—your justification—and the last four dealing with your horizontal relationship with others—your sanctification. How do you see Jesus transforming your heart so that you start recognizing yourself in The Beatitudes?

3. Read The Beatitudes, Matthew 5:2-12 and see the definitions below. Read each one and describe how you have been or need to be transformed?

- The Poor in Spirit- those who regard their souls as bankrupt, broken, if apart from God.
- Those who Mourn- those who realize their condition in their sin and are grieved by it.
- The Meek- those who find satisfaction not in getting more, but in contentment with what they have and patience and humility.
- Those who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness- those who are empty before God, who desire to more like the Jesus, to be filled by Him.
- The Merciful- those who extend mercy to others.
- The Pure in Heart- those whose desires have been purified by the transforming work of God in them.
- The Peacemakers- those who are led by the Spirit, who start to look and act like Jesus, who take on God's character.
- Those who are Persecuted for Righteousness Sake- those who suffer, who are insulted, falsely accused, even harmed because of Jesus.

STUDY GUIDE

questions for later

Action Steps:

- **HEART** - discover and deepen your relationship with Jesus through the daily devotional or a daily scripture reading plan. Invite three people of your same gender to commit to meeting together weekly for a year to discover and deepen your relationships with Jesus together.
- **HARD TO REACH** - identify someone this week who is far from Jesus. Find ways to hear their story and begin building a relationship with them.
- **HOME** - spend time with your family discussing ways to grow in devotion to Jesus so that His value in our life is easily and naturally seen by others.
- **HURTING** - identify someone who is hungry, sick, anxious, lonely, or has some other need. Find ways to meet that need.