

MATTHEW

5 - 10

As we approach the sermon on the mount the most consistent question for theologians is this...Are these attitudes and standards possible? cf. Matt.7:24-27

Poor in Spirit

Mourner

Meek

Merciful

Pure In Heart

Peacemaker

No Anger

No Lust

No Divorce

No Oaths

No Retaliation for or Defense of Personal Pride, Property, or Liberty

Love enemies

Giving, Praying, Fasting- Sincerely and Biblically

No Worry

No Judgement

What is the **blessing** of God?

Makarios: Ma car ee os

Blessed- it can also mean happy, fortunate, blissful.

Homer and Hesiod spoke of the Greek gods as being makarios because they were unaffected by the world of men- who were subject to poverty, disease, weakness, misfortune, and death. It seems that **the fullest meaning of Makarios had to do with an inward contentedness that is not affected by circumstances.**

Makarios is often used to describe God Himself:

David (ps. 68:35) "Blessed be God!"

II Tim. 1:11 Paul spoke of the "glorious gospel of the makarios God" and Jesus Christ "who is the makarios and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords."

Others can see the kingdom standards and get a glimpse of the kingdom blessings, but only those who belong to the kingdom have the promise of personally receiving and experiencing the makarios.

To what extent are the Blessings of God:

-It's all temporary: Money problems, legal problems, relationship problems, medical problems, church problems, even our character problems, our sin problems, our attitude problems.

-There is no record: (college, human resources, police, IRS) Everybody is keeping a record of mistakes and failures except the one who really matters. As far as the east is from the west God said. There is no record with God.

-Love is unconditional: Jesus said I will never leave you nor forsake you.

-We have eternal life: John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, I know them and they follow me and I give unto them everlasting life. This is present tense. We are already living in eternity.

-Our life has purpose

-We have a very present help in time of need:

-We have peace with God and a relationship with Him... and these are just a few ways that we experience the Makarios here and now.

-Makarios has no earthly comparison. This kind of joy and satisfaction is on a higher level than anything in the world and it is to that level that the sermon on the mount takes us. Here is a completely new way of life, based on a completely new way of thinking. It is, in fact, based on a new way of being. The standard of righteousness, and therefore the standard of happiness, is the standard of selflessness- a standard that is completely opposite to man's fallen impulses and unregenerate nature.

It is a standard that is completely beyond our ability apart from the new nature.

Conclusion: God does not want us to live frustrated, defeated lives. He desperately desires that we live a life that is characterized by makarios.

Matthew 5:3 **Blessed** (Macarios) are the **Poor** (Ptochos) in spirit, because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Poor In Spirit Defined:

Greek usage: Ptochos- Shrink, Cower, Cringe. As beggars often did in that day. In the classical writings this term was reserved for those who had been reduced to total destitution, who crouched in a corner begging. Completely dependent on others, absolutely no means of self-support.

Look at the distinction between ptochos and penicros. Luke 21:2 Penicros, more commonly used for poor, describes a situation that is desperate, but not destitute. The poor widow had very little, but she was not completely without anything. Ptochos is the situation where one has nothing.

Matthew's Context: Jesus is speaking of a spiritual poverty that corresponds to the material poverty of one who is ptochos. To be poor in spirit is to recognize one's spiritual poverty apart from God. It is to see oneself as one really is: lost, hopeless, helpless. The poor in spirit are those who recognize their total spiritual destitution and their complete dependence on God.

Poor In Spirit Prioritized:

It is not accidental that Poor in Spirit is first on the list. It is the foundation of all other graces. Until a person surrenders pride he cannot enter the kingdom. We cannot be filled until we are empty; we cannot be made worthy until we recognize our unworthiness; we cannot live until we admit we are dead. Until the soul is humbled, until the inner person is poor in spirit, Christ can never become dear, because He is obscured by self. Until we see our own poverty we cannot see God's riches. Prov. 16:5 Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord. Where self is exalted, Christ cannot be. Where self is king, Christ cannot be. Until the Proud in spirit become the Poor in spirit, they cannot receive the King or inherit His kingdom.

The Beattitudes, along with the rest of the sermon on the mount, comprise a calculated attack on the current worldview. Be pour, mourn, suffer. These are the exact things people are trying to avoid. It is not surprising that Jesus opens this great discourse with the counter culture standards of the kingdom. It is literally upside down land. To live you must die, to have you must give, the last shall be first. This way of the kingdom is not just surprising it is radically selfless.

8-10 Jesus' Authority

8:1-4 Cleansing Power

Jesus touches the leper. This is not only dangerous, and potentially deadly, but it would have also made Jesus ceremonially unclean. Instead it made the leper clean.

What is the offering in vs. 4?

Matthew 8:5-13 "All the nations will be blessed"

Roman centurion (the enemy) receives grace and a glowing reference.

Matt. 8:14-22 Authority over disease and demons

Matt.8: 23-27 Authority over nature

Matthew 8:28-34 A Negative Report

The damage of a negative comment that is typically grounded in some degree of selfishness and/or insecurity has a lasting impact.

The herdsmen did not report the awesome power of God. They reported the unsustainable loss to their herds. Be careful to build up rather than tear down. You can CHOOSE to speak well of almost anything.

Mt. 9:1-7 Authority to Forgive Sins

Mt. 9:9-13 Returning the focus to the inner man not the outward deeds. He shows mercy to "sinners" - befriends them.

Matthew 9:14-17 Something new is not going to be treated the same way as something old. It looks different because it is different.

9:18-26 Authority over Death

9:27-38 Authority over every kind of infirmity

10:1-15 Expansion of Ministry. Disciples sent out. Authority given to disciples.

10:16-25 Expect Resistance

10:26-33 Do Not Be Afraid of Them

10:14-39 Get your Priorities Straight

10:40-42 You will Receive Your Reward