



## The Beatitudes

### Part 2

March 10, 2024

The Gospel of Saint Matthew 5:1-12, “Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. <sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. <sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. <sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall

see God. <sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. <sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. <sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. <sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word today, in Jesus Name! Amen!

As I stated last Sunday, the Bible refers to us as Living Epistles known and read of all men! And again I ask us all, “does our life read Jesus?” And if we truly desire to Be like Jesus then we must embrace the “Be-Attitudes” that He defined in His teachings; therefore point #1...

1. When we embrace the Beatitudes of Christ, We understand that the Lord will Bless us in so that our Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness shall be Satisfied!

- a. The Bible says, <sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”
- b. Church, what we allow to become our appetite will become what we consume and if we do not govern our appetites, what we consume will eventually destroy us! What do you hunger for? What do you thirst for? Is it a hunger and thirst for Christ or Flesh? Paul warned of our fleshly appetites in Romans 8...
- c. The Letter to the Romans 8:8-14, <sup>8</sup>“Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus<sup>a</sup> from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. <sup>12</sup>So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put

to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”

- d. When we hunger and thirst for righteousness then we shall be satisfied but when we feast on the flesh, we will never be filled!
- e. Friends, it is a blessing to hunger and thirst for righteousness; it is a blessing to desire godliness in life and living. It is a blessing to live right. It is a blessing to do it God’s way. It is a blessing to live according to the Word of God!
- f. Sin and Righteousness have one thing in common; they both work in progression so we must choose our “hard”. For example, “it’s hard to serve Jesus” ok yes but it is also hard to live in sin and embrace destructive habits as well. So Choose your hard.
- g. It’s hard to live by the Word but it’s also hard to live by the flesh. So Choose your Hard! It’s hard to die to daily but it’s also hard to live in rebellion as well! So choose your hard! One is done with the Help of the Holy Ghost and the other is done by your own strength so which “hard” do you prefer?
- h. We must all remember that when we embrace the Beatitudes of Christ, We understand that the Lord will Bless us in so that our Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness shall be Satisfied! And when we are satisfied in Christ, this world has nothing to offer us.

## 2. When we embrace the Beatitudes of Christ, We understand that We shall Receive Mercy when we Ourselves Walk in Mercy!

- a. The Bible says <sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”
- b. My pastor, Pastor Don Nordin, has a mercy gift unlike anyone I have ever seen or experienced. His insights when it comes to working with hurting people and how he would navigate difficulty in the lives of others truly inspired me.
- c. The Apostle Paul instructs us in Galatians 6:1-5 regarding Mercy and Restoration, “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. <sup>4</sup> But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. <sup>5</sup> For each will have to bear his own load.”
- d. Church one thing I have learned in serving Jesus is that bearing up a judgmental spirit is exhausting; bearing the weight of the sword of judgment gets heavy. I thank God that I am not the final judge! That’s Christ’s job and not my own.

- e. The Book of James 2:13, “<sup>13</sup> For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”
- f. Church, if we are to found in error; if we are to make a mistake let it be on the side of mercy and not judgment. If I am to be found in error then let it be said that I was too merciful rather than harsh. If we are to receive mercy then we must first walk in mercy for whatever a man sows he shall also reap!
- g. The Book of Romans 12:9-15, “<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.”
- h. And if we walk in mercy, let us walk in empathy and willing to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. We all go through seasons of difficulty and we all need others to grant us mercy. May we all today choose Mercy above judgment and love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

- i. Remember that when we embrace the Beatitudes of Christ, we understand that we shall receive Mercy when we ourselves walk in Mercy! And lastly, point #3...

### 3. When we embrace the Beatitudes of Christ, We understand that the State of our Heart will directly Impact our Ability to see the Lord!

- a. The Bible says <sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”
- b. The Bible has a great deal to say about the heart; for example...
- c. Proverbs 4:20-23, <sup>21</sup>“My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. <sup>21</sup>Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. <sup>22</sup>For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh. <sup>23</sup>Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.”
- d. Your heart is the source of our being and the place of manifestation in regards to our intentions; simply put, the purity of our heart will directly impact the purity of our intentions. Jesus instructs us that purity of our heart directly impacts our ability to see God. Thus I must ask the following question...
- e. What are your intentions? How's your heart? What is your motivation?

- f. When my daughter has her first invitation from a young man to be courted, we shall have a very clear conversation and my first question will be, “what are your intentions?” Why?
- g. Because our intentions always stem from our heart and if our heart is right then our intentions will be pure. Thus our text, blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.
- h. Church, the purity in our hearts, when it comes to our intentions and desires, will directly impact our ability to see the Lord! And that perhaps is even speaking to our ability to see God in the little things of life. The Lord is often in the details that we miss.
- i. When we embrace purity taking up residence in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, we will begin to see the finger prints of God in the smallest of things. In the marriage that is healed. In the marriage that is strong. In the person that is healed. In the grief of loss. In the struggles of financial hardship. In the blessing of provision. In the healing of relationships. In the unity of the church. In the difficulties of emotional and mental health. In the peace that only comes from Christ.
- j. Perhaps the point of the purity of our hearts allowing us to see God is to give us an insight, a glimpse, into the genuine care and sincerity of the God that we serve. He is the God of the details.