

08-28-2022, COTR Texarkana

Title: Jesus said, WHAT? Pt-1

Purpose: Provoke people to embrace the Beatitudes to find true happiness.

Truth for Today: If we apply the sayings of Jesus to everyday life, we'll experience the blessing of God.

Text: Matthew 5:1-12

Topic: Sermon on the Mount, Beatitudes, Happiness, Blessed

Series Title: Jesus said, WHAT?

Series purpose: Provoke people to apply the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount to everyday life.

Jesus said, WHAT? Pt-1

I. Introduction

- A. New series: Jesus Said WHAT? It's about applying the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew ch. 5-7 to everyday life.
- B. Influential people have given speeches that impacted their nation and the world but there is no speech that effected more people in the world than the sermon on the Mount by Jesus. Quotes: (1) *General Omar N. Bradley WW2*. 'We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount.'¹ (2) Justin Martyr, a 2nd century Christian philosopher, 'We used to hate and destroy one another and refused to associate with people of another race or country. Now, because of Christ, we live together with such people and pray for our enemies...'¹ (3) John Stott, a father of Evangelical Christianity, 'the sermon on the mount is the nearest thing to a Christian manifesto that Jesus ever uttered, for it is his own description of what he wanted his followers to be and to do.'¹
- C. Today we'll look at the 1st 12 verses called the Beatitudes (sayings of Jesus). Siri said the beatitudes are the path to supreme blessedness. / happiness.
- D. Truth for Today: If we apply the sayings of Jesus to everyday life, we'll experience the blessing of God.

II. Background of the Sermon on the Mount

- A. Jesus is 30 years old and is about to begin His public ministry as a Jewish rabbi and Messiah. He's baptized in water and the HS comes upon Him. He then faces 40 days in the wilderness to be tempted by satan. The 1st words of His public ministry, [Mt. 4:17–19 (ESV)...Jesus began to preach, saying, "**Repent**, for the **kingdom of heaven** is at hand." 18...he saw two brothers...Peter and Andrew...casting a net into the sea...19 And he said to them, "**Follow me**, and I will make you fishers of men."'] His 1st words were

to turn from our sins and start following God. The sermon on the Mount shows us how.

III. Life application #1: God will bless those who realize their need for Him.

A. [Mt. 5:1–12 (ESV) Seeing the crowds, he (Jesus) went up on the mountain...² And he...taught them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the **poor in spirit** (*NLT realize their need for him/ God*), for **theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**] The 1st thing He said is significant.

1. The word blessed means fortunate, People who are truly happy.³ (AMP) blessed is to be spiritually prosperous regardless of their outward conditions because of something that God will do for them.³
2. When we think of God’s blessing we tend to think of material and financial blessings. Here Jesus connects His blessing to godly character/ reactions to everyday life.
3. Poor in spirit means we consciously depend on God, not on ourselves.² They have absolute dependence on God.¹ The poor may be people whose outward circumstances force them to look to God for everything. Poverty is not automatically a sign of closeness to God ³ but poverty or need can make us realize our need for God. Illus. Movie clip God’s Not Dead
4. Kingdom of heaven/ God, the sovereignty, reign, or rule of God over the heart of man. ^{6,7} God’s reign extends over the entirety of creation.

IV. Life application #2: God will heal our broken heart

A. Vs. 4 “Blessed (*fortunate*) are those who **mourn**, for they shall be **comforted.**] Trans. “God will restore their happiness” or “God will console them in a time of grief or disappointment.”³ How can you be fortunate when you’re grieving a loss? Those who mourn present their hurts and needs to God who is able to comfort them.²

1. Illus. lose a business; lose a child; go thru a divorce. God promises to help us.
2. [2 Cor. 1:3–4 (NLT) All praise to God... **the source of all comfort...**] We cry in His Presence, tell Him how we feel, ask why. Don’t pull away from God; draw near.

V. Life application #3: God will bless us when we see ourselves as we really are

A. [Vs. 5 “Blessed are the meek (*NCV humble*) for they shall inherit the earth.]

1. What is a humble outlook of ourselves? [Acts 17:28 (ESV) ‘**In him (Jesus Christ) we live and move and have our being**’], i.e. everything I am,

Everything I can do and everything I have is because of Jesus.) This is how all human beings really are whether we admit it or not. Illus. Contrast proud and humble Neb.: [Dan. 4:30–35 (NLT) ... ‘Look at this great city of Babylon...I have built this beautiful city as my royal residence to display my majestic splendor... You will live in the fields with the wild animals, and you will eat grass like a cow... **until you learn** that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world...³⁴ “After this time had passed, I...looked up to heaven...and I...worshiped the...one who lives forever...³⁵ All the people of the earth are **nothing** compared to him.]

2. ‘*Inherit the earth*’ God has given earth to mankind as a place for their existence. One day God’s people would enjoy the benefits of heaven and the joys of a redeemed earth.³ [Rev. 21:1 (NIV)...I saw “a **new heaven and a new earth**...] There will be no more suffering, pain or death. The Lord Himself will be there with us forever.

VI. Life application #4: God will satisfy our longing for Him.

1. [Vs. 6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.] The hunger and thirst for righteousness is a spiritual appetite² a longing for God. It means to seek God with all our heart, to desire Him above all else.³ It’s more than just going to church, doing religious duties and obeying commandments.
2. [Psalm 42:2 (ESV) **My soul thirsts for God**, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?]
3. People who hunger for God want more than anything else to do God’s will³ Their greatest desire is that people do what God wants. Great cmdt., Lord’s prayer
4. *Satisfy* Trans. “God will satisfy them completely.”³ The happiness from a car or house passes but our relationship with God can satisfy in ways nothing material can.

VII. Life application #5: When we are merciful to others, God will be merciful to us.

- A. [Vs. 7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.] Def. mercy having a feeling of sorrow over someone’s bad situation and trying to do something about it.
 1. Jesus said when we show mercy to others, “God will will show mercy to them.”³ Illus. Modesta made chicken soup for a sick friend. I hope someone will do for me.

2. Conversely, Jesus implies a person who does not show mercy cannot count on God's mercy when they need pity or forgiveness.³

VIII. Life application #6: When we live pure, clean lives God will be near to us.

A. Vs. 8 "Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for **they shall see God**."

1. The heart symbolizes our mind or thoughts which determine how we live, purity of heart refers to our mind concerned solely to please God.³
2. People with pure hearts aren't perfect. When we think bad thoughts, we confess our sin to God and receive His cleansing. In our pursuit of living a sanctified, set apart, life God comes near to us. [James 4:8 (NCV) Come near to God, and **God will come near to you**. You sinners, **clean sin out of your lives**. You who are trying to follow God and the world at the same time, make your thinking pure.]
3. We won't literally see God in this life, but we can be very aware of His Presence now and one day we will see Him face to face.

IX. Life application #7: God is pleased when we help enemies become friends.

A. [Vs. 9 "Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons (*children*) **of God**.]

1. (1) We can be a peacemaker by showing others how to find peace with God.² Illus. Movie God's Not Dead, Newsboys to a reporter with cancer hoping God is real.
2. (2) Trans. 'peacemaker is causing enemies to be friends', or "those who work to stop people from being enemies."³ Illus. The Rock in a Juvenile center helped gang members by starting a football team.
3. God can call us a lot of things: enemy, foolish, proud, or selfish. I'd rather be called His child because I help people get along.

X. Life application #8: God will one day reward us when we are persecuted for following Him.

A. [Vs. 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...**]

1. The reason for persecution is *For righteousness' sake* Trans "for their loyalty to God's way of life³ or "because they live as God wants people to."³

2. To be persecuted is to be made to suffer for our faith. Ministry of Open Doors...a woman in India watches as her sister is dragged off by Hindu nationalists. She doesn't know if her sister is alive or dead. A man in a North Korean prison camp is shaken awake after being beaten unconscious; the beatings begin again. A group of children are laughing and talking as they come down to their church's sanctuary after eating together. Instantly, many of them are killed by a bomb blast. It's Easter Sunday in Sri Lanka. Last year, over 360 million Christians live where they are persecuted.
3. *To Revile* or *insult* is vicious verbal abuse; to "say bad things about you that aren't true"³ Jesus tells us to *Rejoice*, Grk. means "to leap much, signifying irrepressible demonstrative gladness." Not because we feel happy but because God is proud of us for standing for righteousness and promises to reward us. We may also be rewarded, on earth Illus. Indian concrete contractor

XI. Conclusion: Summary of 'Life Applications'

- A. God will bless us and we'll find true happiness when: (1) We realize our need for God. (2) We look to Him to comfort us when we mourn, (3) We're humble and depend on Him for everything, (4) We hunger and thirst for God and His righteousness, (5) We're merciful to others, (6) We live pure, clean lives, (7) We're peacemakers. (8) We're persecuted or reviled for following Him.

XII. Response

- A. Prayer
- B. Souls

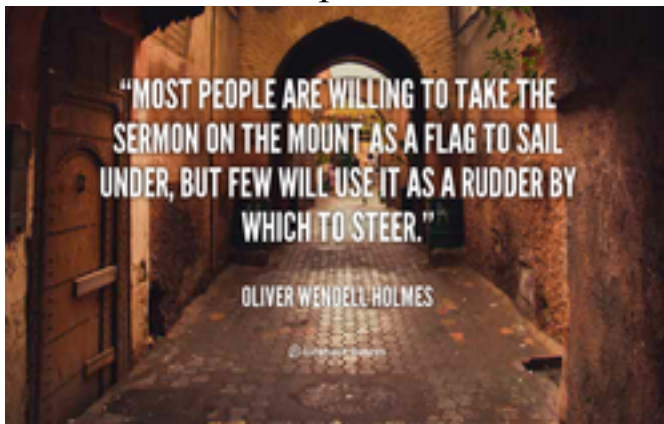
XIII. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. <https://thepastorsworkshop.com/sermon-quotes-on-the-sermon-on-the-mountain/>
2. Barbieri, L. A., Jr. (1985). *Matthew*. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 28). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.
3. Newman, B. M., & Stine, P. C. (1992). *A handbook on the Gospel of Matthew* (p. 102). New York: United Bible Societies.
4. <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/>
5. R. T. France, *The Gospel according to Matthew*, TNTC (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985), 108. Blomberg, C. (1992). *Matthew* (Vol. 22, p. 97). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

6. Achtemeier, P. J., Harper & Row and Society of Biblical Literature. (1985). In [*Harper's Bible dictionary*](#) (1st ed., p. 527). San Francisco: Harper & Row.
7. Robertson, A. T. (1933). [*Word Pictures in the New Testament*](#) (Mt 5:3). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

XIV. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

- A. Persecution/ Open Doors: These people don't live in the same region, or even on the same continent. But they share an important characteristic: They are all Christians, and they suffer because of their faith. While Christian persecution takes many forms, it is defined as any hostility experienced as a result of identification with Jesus Christ. From Sudan to Afghanistan, from Nigeria to North Korea, from Colombia to India, followers of Christianity are targeted for their faith. They are attacked; they are discriminated against at work and at school; they risk sexual violence, torture, arrest and much more.
1. 5,898 Christians killed for their faith. 5,110 churches and other Christian buildings attacked. 4,765 believers detained without trial, arrested, sentenced or imprisoned.⁴



- B.
- C. He was healing every disease and sickness among the people (cf. "teaching," "preaching," and "healing" in Matt. 9:35). This authenticated that He is indeed the Prophet, for His words were backed up by authenticating signs.²
1. *The sermon showed how a person who is in right relationship with God should conduct his life.* the sermon applies to Jesus' followers today for it demonstrates the standard of righteousness God demands of His people.²
 2. For *disciples* most translators have tried to avoid a word that simply means "students," but it has often been possible to use "apprentices." Some have used "followers"³