

INTRO: Actually not a sermon on the mount. It starts as a *conversation in the camp*. Primarily teaching the disciples, but then draws interest. Sorry... This seems more like he's trying to get away from the crowds. But then they're drawn in.

Most likely a much longer teaching time. 20min. :-)

I. BEAUTIFUL ATTITUDES

- A. **Poor in Spirit** - When you're poor you're humble. Some are too proud to ask, until they're desperate. Spiritually we are poor. We have nothing to offer but sin itself. All you need is your need..."All the fitness he requires." Humble not Haughty.
- B. **Mourn/Lament** - Scott's Funeral. Cry/Weep. Inside Out. Feel better. Science. "Good Cry." **Jesus wept.** Why? Getting ready to raise him up. Because of sin, brokenness of sin, suffering, world, effects, pain, waiting, what it would cost him, etc.
- C. **Meek/Gentle/Humble** - Not after position, power, recognition, status, approval, autonomous, self-actuality. Accept yourself fully. No regrets, only learning, growing and gratitude. "your fullest, most authentic self by realizing your unique potential, talents, and purpose in life..." *Accurate perception of reality, acceptance of self/others. Deep empathy, creativity, strong sense of humor. Focus on broader problems, desire for truth/justice. Ability to experience "peak moments" of profound joy and connection* **This is an unapologetic/defensiveness. "Just who I am. Personality. Deal with it. Get over it."** Identity secure in Jesus and who He's made you.
- D. **Crave/Desire Righteousness** - What you most seek after and what you most want in life is to do good, live well, love big, serve, glorify, etc and what you want to see most in the world is a transformation of faith, repentance and obedience to Jesus.
- E. **Merciful** - Those who are not merciful are proud and judgmental. Self-righteous. Unmerciful servant didn't forgive because he forgot his forgiveness. Gratitude. Forgiven much loves much.
- F. **Pure in Heart** - Motivations. Heat love/grace. Not just focused on outward looks/actions.

ILLUSTRATION: COOL WHIP. Different on the inside. False advertising. Science experiments. **There's an aspect of natural design in these things.** "Dress Good. Feel Good. Work/Play Good." "Act Right/Feel Right." Reward chemicals. Feels good to treat people well. Help people. *It does feel good, but that can't be our main motivation, or it would be selfishness.*

- G. **Peacemakers** - Not "Peacebreakers" or "Peacefakers". Not just "keep the peace" and avoid conflict. **5 dysfunctions of a team** - "conflict avoidance." **Trust/Teamwork/Love/Commitment.**
- H. **Persecuted for Righteousness/Goodness** - Reviled. Insulted. Mocked. Because you will be if you live and act like these things. You'll stand out. People will feel threatened by your sense of confidence and humility and peace and joy.

APPLICATION:

1. **Can we be honest for a second and say that none of us are any of these things on our own?** And we can't manufacture these Beautiful Attitudes on our own. This requires a grace transformation. Becoming more like Jesus.
2. **That's really the point of this whole sermon**, is to show you that you can't be these things or live this way without help. Without the Spirits power.
3. **The Gap between what you would do naturally and what you can only do by grace is the glory of God.** What Jesus is describing is Gospel Fruit and Grace Transformation.

II. BEAUTIFUL AWARDS

- A. **It's a bit poetic.** Parallelism. All these results are similar in that they contain the promise and hope of the gospel for believers.
- B. **Kingdom of Heaven. Comforted. Inherit Earth. Satisfied. Mercy.** Experience it more and show it more and experience it more. **See God. Sons of God.**
- C. **Joy and Gladness.** Heaven is the ultimate fulfillment of these promises, but we will experience tastes of that future now. **ILLUSTRATION: Wedding Tasting. Cake Tasting. Decor.**

CONCLUSION: *If my joy is based on my performance and attitude and actions and abilities, then I'm sure to end up proud or in despairing, but if my joy is based on Jesus' performance and righteousness and the award He offers by faith, then I can live a life of blessedness and blessing to others, and reap the benefits of gratitude, reward and fulness. Jesus came to give life and give it to the full - here and in eternity.*