

The Sermon on the Mount – The Beatitudes Part 1

Beatitudes Part 1 – Matthew 5:3-6

1. What are the Beatitudes?
2. What is the purpose of the Beatitudes?
3. Why start with “Blessed”?

The Beatitudes are not Prescriptive (a list of what to do) but rather Descriptive (a picture of a citizen of God’s Kingdom).

Beatitude 1 (Matt 5:3) - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Beatitude 2 (Matt 5:4) - Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” (Isaiah 6:5)

Beatitude 3 (Matt 5:5) - Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman. And they said, “Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?” And the Lord heard it. Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.” (Numbers 12:1-3)

Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it. (Prov 15:16)

I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (Phil 4:11b-13)

(over)

Beatitude 4 (Matt 5:6) - Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

“Shower, O heavens, from above,
and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit;
let the earth cause them both to sprout;
I the Lord have created it. (Isaiah 45:8)

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’” (Romans 1:16-17)

So how do we keep the righteousness of Christ ever before us that it may continue to ignite our hunger and thirst? By meditating on it:

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:8-9)

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3:1-4)

These first four Beatitudes echo a prophecy of Isaiah:

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and opening of the prison to those who are bound;
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, he may be glorified. (Isaiah 61:1-3)

Next Lesson: the Beatitudes – Part 2. Reread the Beatitudes and see if you look at verses 7-12 in a new way!