

The Sermon on the Mount: Beatitudes

Matthew 5:3-12

“Blessed are...”

- Jesus begins His teaching with 9 expressions of blessing
 - Μακαριος (*makarios*) (adj): blessed, privileged
 - It is not an emotional state, but rather a perspective
- As Jesus' disciples, we need to have the proper perspective on our lives and the world around us

The Blessed who Lack (v. 3-6)

- The first four Beatitudes are a call for perspective to those who lack in various ways
- The Poor: Those who lack economically (Lk 6:20)
 - “in spirit”: Those who understand their spiritual poverty
 - The promise: A place in God's Kingdom
- The Mourners: Those who have lost loved ones or experience great sadness
 - The promise: Comfort
- The Meek/Humble: Those who know their limitations
 - Those who put others' needs before themselves
 - The promise: Inheritors of the earth
- The Hungry & Thirsty: Those who lack provision (Lk 6:21a)
 - “for righteousness”: Those who desire godliness
 - The promise: Satisfaction

The Blessed Children (v. 7-9)

- The next three are all characteristics of God which we are called to emulate
- The Merciful: Those who show mercy habitually
 - Mercy: To be greatly concerned about the needs of others, to show compassion
 - The promise: To receive mercy from God
 - This reflects the character of Jesus (Heb 2:17-18)
- The Pure in Heart: Those who have right motives and intents (Ps 24:4-5)
 - The promise: To see God face to face
- The Peacemakers: Those who work toward reconciliation
 - The promise: To be sons of God
 - Just as Jesus has reconciled us to God, we are to work on reconciling others to God and one another (2 Cor 5:18-20)

The Persecuted (v. 10-11)

- Jesus ends the blessings with a wakeup call that living this way will lead to persecution
 - This includes insults, falsities, hardships, and even death
- This should be expected, since this is how people treat those who speak and act differently from the world
 - Like the OT prophets & Jesus Himself
- The promise: A place in God's kingdom

So What?

- We are to live as citizens of God's kingdom here and now

- Reflecting the character and attitude of Jesus to those around us
- How are we doing?
- From what do we need to confess & repent?

Meditation Verse: *Matthew 5:6*