

**“BEAUTIFUL ATTITUDES”
(The Beatitudes of Jesus)
Matthew 5:1-12**

Introduction:

1. The Sermon on the Mount is “the constitution of the church of Christ.”
 - a. It is the greatest teaching of the greatest Teacher who ever lived.
 - b. It has been praised by all, but practiced by very few.
2. The Sermon on the Mount describes the character of those in the kingdom.
 - a. Foy E. Wallace, Jr. called its teaching “Pentecostal pointers.”
 - b. R. C. Foster said: “It presents the highest ideals of living the world has ever received, in the most beautiful language ever conceived.”
3. The Beatitudes are the preamble to the Sermon on the Mount.
4. The word “beatitude” comes from the Latin word for “Blessed.”
 - a. “Blessed” is the translation of the Greek word “makarios.”
 - b. Some modern versions inadequately translate makarios as “happy.”
 - c. Happiness is based on one’s outward circumstances.
 - d. Blessed is inner joy that is not dependent upon what is happening.
5. A little girl referred to “The Beatitudes” as “The Beautiful Attitudes.”
 - a. These beautiful attitudes are found in those in the kingdom.
 - b. The worldly concept of the blessed person is the very opposite.

Discussion:

- I. “BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT: THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM.”
 - A. “Poor” describes one who is destitute, lacking in basic necessities.
 1. The poor in spirit are not proud, arrogant or self-sufficient.
 2. They know they are weak, sinful and in need of God’s grace.
 3. They have “become as little children” (Matthew 18:3).
 4. They know man cannot find his way to Heaven (Jer. 10:23).
 - B. The tax collector in the parable was poor in spirit (Luke 18:9-14).
- II. “BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN; THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED.”
 - A. “Mourn” means to grieve for the dead.

1. "It is sorrow which brings an ache to the heart and unrestrained tears to the eyes."
2. It describes one who is painfully aware of his sins and shortcomings.

B. One must be sincerely sorry for his sins to be forgiven (2 Cor. 7:10).

1. Saul of Tarsus was an example of this (Acts 9:9; 1 Tim. 1:15).
2. Jesus gives rest to such mourners (Matthew 11:28-30).

III. "BLESSED ARE THE MEEK; THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH."

A. "Meek" describes one who is mild, humble, or gentle.

1. Jesus was "meek and lowly in heart" (Matt. 11:29).
2. Moses was "very meek..." (Numbers 12:3).
3. One who is meek is not selfish, demanding, or self-seeking.

B. "The meek shall inherit the earth." (Psalm 37:11).

1. They enjoy this earth to a greater degree than the covetous.
2. They will inherit "the new heavens and the new earth in which righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1).

IV. "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS; THEY SHALL BE FILLED."

A. Hunger and thirst are the two strongest drives in humans.

1. Food and drink are essential for our physical survival.
2. Hunger and thirst can only be satisfied for a short time.

B. Righteousness is "practicing righteousness" or doing right (1 John 3:7; Psalm 119:172).

C. "Righteousness" also describes a state of justification.

1. The Jews were ignorant of God's righteousness and tried to establish their own righteousness (Romans 10:3).
2. God makes men righteous by the Gospel (Rom. 1:16,17).

V. "BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL; THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY."

A. Mercy is not simply pity, but active compassion for others.

1. The Good Samaritan showed mercy (Luke 10:30-37).
2. We must show mercy in order to receive mercy (James 2:13).
3. If we do not forgive, God will not forgive us (Matt. 6:12-15).

B. We are saved by God's mercy extended through Christ (Titus 3:5).

VI. "BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART; THEY SHALL SEE GOD."

A. God is infinite in holiness and purity.

1. He is of "purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness" (Habakuk 1:13).
2. Sin separates man from God (Gen. 3:22-24; Isaiah 59:1,2).

B. The pure in heart have "purified their souls in obeying the truth" (1 Peter 1:22,23).

1. We must keep our hearts pure (Prov. 4:23; 1 Tim. 5:22).
2. The pure shall be with God in Heaven (Revelation 22:4).

VII. "BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS; THEY SHALL BE CALLED THE SONS OF GOD."

A. Man is alienated from God by his sins, but Christ made peace by the blood of His cross (Colossians 1:20; Romans 5:1).

B. The peacemaker is the one who teaches the Gospel by which sinners are reconciled to God (Romans 10:15; Philippians 4:7).

VIII. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE; THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN."

A. Satan will try every child of God (Acts 14:22; 2 Tim. 3:12).

1. If Christ was persecuted, His disciples will be also (Jn. 15:20).
2. We need to be concerned when all speak well of us (Lk. 6:26).

B. Christians rejoice in persecution for our reward is great in Heaven (Acts 5:41; 1 Kings 19; Jeremiah 20; 32; 37; Hebrews 11:37).

Conclusion:

1. The world sees one happy if he is rich, successful, popular, and powerful.
2. God's view of the blessed man is described in the Beatitudes of Jesus.
3. Only the one who is blessed as Jesus described will be in God's kingdom on earth and in His eternal kingdom in Heaven.

