

THE BLESSED LIFE

Matthew 5:1-5

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. Today we begin a sermon study of the Sermon on the Mount...which is found in Matthew 5-7.
- b. The Sermon on the Mount...is a guide book for Christian living...it is Jesus' description of the Christian life...that is lived under the control of the Holy Spirit.

II. THE BEATITUDES-

- a. The opening verses of the Sermon on the Mount...are commonly called the Beatitudes.
- b. The word Beatitude comes from the Latin word for "blessed"...it literally means "happy"...the Lord Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount by telling us how to be truly happy.
- c. The world says that happiness is the goal of life and is found in earthly riches and abundance...in worldly enjoyments and merriment...in leisure...in advancement.
- d. But the happiness that comes from these things is not lasting or ultimately fulfilling ...some of the most miserable people on this planet...are those who seemingly have it all.
- e. Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount by teaching us...that true and lasting happiness is a gift...that God gives to those who give their life to Him.
- f. The goal of life is not to be happy...it is to be holy...to know the God of the Bible ... to love Him...and to serve Him...if a person does that they will be happy.
- g. The Beatitudes are interrelated like links in a chain...each beatitude builds upon those before it.

III. BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT-

- a. The first beatitude is found in...*Matthew 5:3 (NKJV) "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*
- b. The word translated "poor" in this verse...means utter destitution...it was a word that was used to describe someone in abject poverty.
- c. Jesus is not talking about financial poverty in this verse...He is talking about spiritual poverty...He said "blessed are the poor in spirit."

- d. Jesus said happy is the person who comes to realize...just how spiritually poor and destitute they really are.
- e. The Christian life begins...when a person realizes that they are utterly and hopelessly lost and separated from God...and their only hope of being saved and right with God...is His grace and mercy.
- f. It is not the “proud in spirit” who are saved and experience the Kingdom of God ...it is the poor in spirit...those who realize their total dependence upon God’s divine grace.
- g. A perfect illustration of what it means to be poor in spirit is found in *Luke 18:10-14 (NKJV)* "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."
- h. Those who are proud in spirit...who are self-righteous...self-important and haughty...exclude themselves from salvation and God’s blessings.

IV. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN-

- a. *Matthew 5:4 (NKJV)* “Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.”
- b. In this verse Jesus is talking about our attitude toward our sin...the reason we are spiritually poor, bankrupt and separated from God...is because we are sinners.
- c. Jesus said happy is the person who mourns over their sin...who realizes the wretchedness of their sin...who confesses their sin...and who turns from their sin to God through the Lord Jesus Christ.
- d. Jesus said those who mourn over their sin...and turn to God...will be comforted.
- e. They will receive the comfort of God’s forgiveness from the penalty of sin ... *Psalms 103:11-12 (NKJV)* “For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.”
- f. The hymn writer put it this way. "My sin, o the bliss of this glorious thought, my sin not in part but the whole; was nailed to the cross and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul."

- g. They will receive the comfort of the Comforter...the Holy Spirit of God...who comes to live within them to help them to grow in victory over sin's power.
- h. They will receive the ultimate comfort...when they are taken to Heaven and are completely and eternally delivered...from the presence and power of sin.
- i. Those who have no grief or remorse toward God for their sin and wrong...will never experience the comfort or salvation of God.

V. BLESSED ARE THE MEEK-

- a. *Matthew 5:5 (NKJV) "Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth."*
- b. The translated "meek" means "strength under control"...it was used in ancient times to describe a wild horse which had been "broken"...or brought under control so it could be ridden.
- c. The same wild and powerful horse that could not be ridden or controlled...after it was broken was controllable...gentle...humble...teachable.
- d. Jesus said happy is the person...who has been broken by God and brought under His control...who is now gentle ... humble ...teachable...surrendered to God.
- e. Before he meet Christ...Legion was a wild...demon-controlled mad man...but after he was saved he was a different man...*Luke 8:35 (NKJV) "Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind."*
- f. The Prodigal Son lived a wild and rebellious life...but he came home to the Father in remorse and repentance...and surrendered himself to his Father's control.
- g. Saul of Tarsus was driven by a fanatical hatred for Christ and His followers...but when he was saved...he became Paul the Apostle...the bond slave of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- h. Those under the control of Christ...will inherit the earth...and rule with Christ.

VI. CONCLUSION-

- a. The Christian life begins with the realization of our spiritual poverty...with a brokenness over our sin...and a surrender to Christ's control.
- b. True and lasting happiness is only found...in a right relationship with God...through the Lord Jesus Christ...Come and be blessed!