

The Attitude of The Beatitudes (Keys To Happiness)

Introduction – Lesson Text: Matthew 5:1-13

- A. The world in Jesus' day, just as ours, was in the earnest pursuit of happiness and people then had just as little conception how to find it as people today.
- B. The Sermon on Mount is Jesus' formula for happiness. If we will put these into fundamental principles into practice, happiness will be ours here and for all eternity.
- C. The Attitude of the Beatitudes - Describes the character of the child of the King. "Blessed" means "*Happy, Fortunate, to be congratulated*". These are the qualities of character that make for the truly blessed and happy life.

I. "Blessed are the Poor in Spirit" (vs. 3)

- A. This is the same word that is used to describe the "begger" in Luke 16:20.
- B. This is not economic poverty, but those who sense their own spiritual destitution.
 - 1. This is the man who has plumbed the depths of his heart and found nothing there of any real value; realizing his utter helplessness he comes **begging** God for mercy and pardon. He is bankrupt in spirit. Psalms 51:16-17
 - 2. We can forget our dependence on God and our daily need for His grace. We can become self-sufficient and forget our need of God's forgiveness. Rev 3:17

II. "Blessed are they that Mourn" (vs. 4)

- A. This is not a weeping over things I have no control. But a mourning over sin - conscious of my own spiritual destitution; "godly sorrow". 2 Corinthians 7:10
 - 1. Psalms 51:4 - David was characterized by that broken spirit that led him to mourn over his sins.
 - a) It does no good to mourn over sin if one does not mourn over his sin against God first and foremost.
 - b) You may be sorry you sinned against your husband or wife or the church. Or you may be sorry that you marred your good reputation or that you "got caught", but there's no forgiveness in worldly sorrow – it results in "death".
 - c) Peter - "wept bitterly" - moved to bitter tears, grief and repentance, but Judas went and hung himself.
- B. Zechariah 12:10 – prophecy fulfilled in John 19 – but the application is for all who look at Calvary's cross and recognize it's their sins that nailed Him to the tree.
 - 1. We look upon Jesus the one that we have pierced by our own sins. I crucified the Son of God, by my sins! Song - "I'm The One".
 - 2. It's not until we come mourning over our sins, are we going to find forgiveness of God and real happiness.

III. "Blessed are the Meek" (vs. 5)

- A. Meekness in the presence of our Lord much as a wayward servant comes before his master. As the prodigal son - Luke 15. We come before a righteous God in humility of heart.
- B. Generally we look upon the meek in our society as those who get run over. We need to understand what true meekness is.

1. Meekness is not weakness.
 - a) The very one who had 72,000 angels at His command described himself (Matthew 11:29). Jesus was not meek because He was powerless, but because He had such immense power under control.
 - b) The Greek word (praus) is used describing an animal that had been tamed. It denotes self-control!
2. Meekness is not indifference to evil. Does not imply lack of moral courage.
 - a) Jesus - Hebrews 1:9 – when He cleansed the temple, He got angry.
 - b) Moses was the meekest of men (Num.12:3) but his anger could burn hot against irreverence and ungodliness (Ex.32:19).
 - c) The meek man may endure persecution or mistreatment, for he is not concerned about self-defense, but he is not passive about evil! (Rom.12:9)
3. Meekness is not being fearful, timid, or bashful, but involves patience, longsuffering and gentleness towards others. II Timothy 2:24-26 and Gal. 6:1
- C. The meek man is one who has had enough of himself (self-righteousness, self-confidence) and has emptied his heart of self and filled it with God and others, and has become a humble servant.

IV. "Blessed are they who do Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness" (vs. 6)

- A. The poor in spirit will be hungry for the righteousness which is of God. Philippians 3:9. We've all gone off into the "far away country" of sin and we "perish with hunger" Luke 15:16-17
 1. Ephesians 2:8,9 - if there was something I could do to earn my salvation, then I'd have room to boast, but all I can do is come before God hungering.
- B. This is the only way I'll ever find any real satisfaction in my spirit.
 1. Everybody is hungering and thirsting in the world. There is a craving (not for food and water) for satisfaction, fulfillment, happiness, contentment.
 2. The majority are trying to find it in the things of the world: immorality, alcohol, drugs - thinking that's where real happiness is found.
 3. Everybody's hungering and thirsting because God made us that way... Psalms 63:1; 42:1-2 There is in every human being an empty place, a void that can only be filled by a relationship with God.
 4. Are we hungering and thirsting for the righteousness of God everyday? I Peter 2:2 (Through prayer and Bible reading that can fill the void within)

V. "Blessed are the Merciful" (vs. 7)

- A. As I come to God recognizing my own need for mercy and forgiveness, I'm going to be merciful and compassionate toward others.
- B. Those who recognize their own need for mercy, will extend mercy. No one can have God's forgiveness unless he has forgiveness towards others. Matt 6:14-15

VI. "Blessed are the Pure in Heart" (vs. 8)

- A. Phillips - "utterly sincere" genuine person who comes before God without hypocrisy. Not just outward piety, but all he does comes from the heart.
- B. "Happy is the man who lives that at any moment he could bare his heart to the eye of God without shame!" (Commentary)
- C. "Shall see God" – We will see Him in eternity in heaven, see Him as He is. I John 3:2,3; but also see Him now, even in this life..

1. In the full understanding of an intimate relationship with Him. Ps.24:3-4
 2. The majority of people in world don't ever see God. They look at the things around them and they see man - humanism (infected our educational systems, our philosophy, and thinking).
 3. If we're not pure in heart; if there is some kind of filth or immorality dwelling in your heart, then you won't see God.
 4. In purity of heart you'll come to a greater appreciation of God than ever imagined, in knowing who God is and what He can do for your life.
- D.** There's the very attitude that was lacking in those self-righteous Pharisees of Jesus' day. Luke 18:9 - Did they hunger and thirst for the righteousness which is of God? Were they merciful to others? vs.10-14 Which one are we like in attitude?

VII. "Blessed are The Peacemakers" (vs. 9)

- A.** Not necessarily settling neighborhood disputes - but bringing men to the peace of Christ; as we preach the message of the gospel of peace.
- B.** Peacemakers, not just peace lovers. But active promoters of peace; not just merely being peaceable. The peacemaker does not fold his hands, but rolls up his sleeves and gets in the spiritual warfare for peace.

VIII. "Blessed are The Persecuted" (vs. 10)

- A.** Notice: these peacemakers have become the persecuted! "for righteousness' sake" - chosen to be righteous in an unrighteous world (John 15:18-20).
 1. II Timothy 3:12 - We ought to be glad that they see that much of the character of Christ in us. We are "In the world, but not of the world."
- B.** Rejoice that been granted the privilege of suffering for one who endured so much for your sake. (Phil. 1:28-29; Acts 5:41)
 1. Rejoice in your sufferings for Christ, when people ridicule you and make fun of your convictions, and they think you're strange because you're different.

IX. Contrast what Jesus says and what men conceive in a happy and blessed life.

- A.** Men would say: "Blessed are the wealthy" or "those free to pursue pleasure" (got and "money to enjoy good life" "the intellectual" "the socially accepted" "the talented" "the physically beautiful" (These are not wrong in themselves).
 1. Some people think this is what life is all about. They would pursue these things and say "That's where happiness is to be found".
 2. Happiness in these things is fleeting; short lived. But the person who has these qualities Jesus taught has an enduring happiness that will last eternity.
- B.** Real happiness is from within, not from external surroundings, circumstances, and material things. A person doesn't find happiness in what he does or what he has but a person finds happiness from what he is!

Conclusion

Notice the rewards of each of the beatitudes (verses 3-10). These are the rewards of the true citizen of the kingdom of heaven. Do these describe your attitude of heart as you come before God?