

# *The Beatitudes*

## *Lecture #1 Introduction*

### **I. Beatitudes in the Bible**

- A. Definition of "beatitude"
- B. Old Testament beatitudes (e.g., Judges 5:24/Ruth 2:19/Psalm 1:1/ 32:1/Prov.8:34/Isa.30:18, etc.)
- C. Jesus' beatitudes (Matt.5:3-10/11:6/13:16/24:46/Luke 6:20-23/11:27-28/John 13:17)
- D. Other New Testament beatitudes (Luke 1:28, 42/Jas.1:12/1 Pet.4:14/Rev.1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14)

### **II. A Manifesto of the Kingdom of God**

- A. A redefinition of happiness
- B. A Composite Description of those who qualify
- C. An enumeration of privileges

### **III. Comparison of the two sets of beatitudes**

	Matthew 5:3-10	toward		Luke 6:20-23
1	The poor in spirit	God	1	"you poor"
2	Those who mourn	God	2	"you who hunger now"
3	The meek (or gentle)	Man	3	"you who weep now"
4	Those who hunger/thirst for righteousness	God	4	"you when men hate you"
5	The merciful	Man		
6	The pure in heart	God		
7	The peacemakers	Man		
8	The persecuted for righteousness	Man		

#### **Observations:**

1. Matthew's are more "spiritual"; Luke's are more "socio/economic"
2. Luke has half as many, but adds four "woes"
3. Matthew's include four related to loving God, and four related to loving one's neighbor

#### **Possible Explanations:**

1. Two separate sermons may be recorded by the two writers
2. Matthew may be giving a composite, and giving the spiritual meaning

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## *Lecture # 2*

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

### **I. What does "poor in spirit" mean?**

A. Old Testament equivalent expressions:

1. "The poor and contrite spirit that trembles at my word" (Isa.66:2)
2. "Contrite" is elsewhere associated with the "humble spirit" (Isa.57:15)
3. The commonest words in the O.T. for "poor" carry the meanings "poor, afflicted, humble."

B. *Gr. ptochos* an adjective related to the verb *ptocheuo*, meaning "to be poor as a beggar...to be destitute" (W.E.Vine).

C. The "poor" are to be the objects of generosity and assistance (Matt.19:21), because they are helpless and cannot repay their benefactors (Luke 14:13-14, 21). Compare Ps.10:14T

D. As in Isaiah 66:2, the "poor...in spirit" are those who are spiritually humble, who see themselves as having nothing of their own by which to enrich another (God), being beggars and full pensioners upon the mercy and generosity of another (God).

### **II. Examples of poverty of spirit and its opposite**

A. Moses (Ex.3:11)

B. David (Ps.8:3-4)

C. Job (Job 42:5-6)

D. The church of Smyrna and the church of Laodicea (Rev.2:9/3:16-17)

E. The Pharisee and the Publican (Luke 18:10-14)

### **III. What are the thinking errors that prevent our being poor in spirit?**

A. Misdirected confidence (Phil.3:3-9/1 Tim.6:17)

B. Taking wrongful credit (1 Cor.4:7/Acts 12:21-23)

C. Invalid comparison (2 Cor.10:12)

### **IV. How ought we to think of ourselves?**

A. Soberly (Rom.12:3)

B. Small in own eyes (1 Sam.15:17/Matt.18:3/2 Cor.12:11/Phil.2:3)

C. Unworthy of mercy or privilege (Gen.32:10/Romans 7:18/1 Cor.15:9)

D. Confident in God (Philemon 6/2 Cor.1:9/Phil.4:13)

E. Expendible (Matt.3:9/John 3:30)

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***Lecture # 3***  
***Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.***  
***(Matt.5:4)***

**I. Mourning: an unfashionable Christian trait, because:**

- A. Reaction to an imagined "misery is next to godliness" concept of Christianity
- B. A desire to attract unbelievers through joviality, humor & superficiality
- C. A confusion of Christian joy with carnal "fun" or levity
- D. A defective doctrine of sin (e.g., "grace=license," "unconditional security," "a nonjudgmental God")

**II. "Happy sorrow" Vs. "unhappy sorrow" (II Cor.7:10)**

- A. Self-pity is not a pretty thing
  - 1. Suffering the consequences of our own sins should be accepted as a justice not to be regretted (1 Cor.11:31-32). To experience bitterness over such means that brokenness is not present.
  - 2. The sorrow of spoiled children upon being denied some desired thing is carnal, leading to sin (2 Sam.13:1-2).
  - 3. The sorrow associated with persecution is covered in a later beatitude, and thus may not be in view here.
- B. The sorrow that is blessed is that which enters into God's own grief over sin and its results. A broken heart over the state of a world in rebellion against God and over one's own sinfulness.

**III. Brokenness, a fruit of repentance (Ps.34:18/51:17)**

- A. A sharing in God's own grief (Gen.6:6/Phil. 3:10)
- B. Grief is the inevitable accompaniment to spiritual sensitivity. It is called for, in view of:
  - 1. Our own sin (Luke 7:36ff/James 4:8-9/Rom.7:24)
  - 2. The sins of others (Ezek.9:4/II Pet.2:8/Mark 3:5)
  - 3. The affliction that sin brings upon others (Jer.9:1/John 11:33, 35/Luke 19:41)
- C. Such brokenness confers a sense of gravity and sobriety in general
  - 1. Jesus (Isa.53:2-3)
  - 2. Christians (Tit.2:2-7/I Pet.1:13/4:7/5:8)

**IV. They shall be comforted (Psalm 30:5)**

- A. The comfort of forgiveness (Matt.9:2/Ps.32:1-5/Isa.61:3)
- B. The comfort of communion with God (Ps.34:18/II Cor.1:3)
- C. The comfort of hope (Rom.15:4)
  - 1. Hope of improvement (Heb.12:11)
  - 2. Hope of ultimate relief (Rev.7:13-17)

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## *Lecture # 4*

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

*"but the meek shall inherit the earth" (Psalm 37:11)*

### **I. The Inheritance of the Saints: Earth?**

- A. Christ is to inherit the whole world (Ps.2:8/Rom.4:13/Rev.11:15)
- B. The righteous will share in His inheritance (Isa.53:12/ Rom.8:16-17/Rev.21:7)
- C. To inherit suggests permanent occupation (Ps.37:3/Prov. 2:21-22)
- D. To inherit suggests co-rulership with Christ (Matt.25:34/1 Cor.6:9-10/Rev.5:10/II Tim.2:12)

### **II. What is meekness?** *(see word study on reverse side)*

- A. Non-self-assertive; deferring to others (**Matt. 21:5\***/James 3:17/Gen.13:8-9)
- B. Non-defensive; resigned to God's will (Matt.5:39-42/I Pet.4:19/James 5:6)
- C. Non-retaliating (Matt.5:44/I Pet.2:23/Rom.12:17-21)
- D. Teachable (Ps.25:9/Prov.24:6/**James 1:21\***)
- E. Who will defend a doormat? (Isaiah 11:4\*\*)
- F. Meekness is a mark
  - 1. of strength (Prov.16:32/Rom.15:1)
  - 2. of spirituality (**Gal. 5:23/6:1\***)
  - 3. of wisdom (**Jas. 3:13\***)
  - 4. of leadership (Num.12:3\*\*/**Matt. 11:29\***)
- G. Associated traits:
  - 1. Lowliness of mind (**Matt. 11:29/Ephesians 4:2\* /Col.3:12\***)
  - 2. Patience and forbearance (**Eph. 4:2/2 Tim. 2:25\***)
  - 3. Gentleness (**II Cor. 10:1/Titus 3:2\***)
  - 4. Quietness (**I Pet. 3:4\***)

### **III. How obtained?**

- A. Fruit of the Spirit (**Gal.5:23\***) [a spiritual quality: **I Cor.4:21/Gal.6:1/I Pet.3:4\***]
- B. Put-on meekness (**Col.3:12\***)
- C. Follow after meekness (**I Tim.6:11\***)

\*references in boldface actually use the words "meek" or "meekness" (Gr. *praus* or *prautes*, respectively; or their earlier forms: *praos*, *praotes*)

\*\* the Hebrew word for "meek" in this verse is the same as that in Ps.37:11 "the meek shall inherit..." and is thus equivalent to the Greek *praus*, used by Jesus in the present beatitude.

## Word Study: Meekness

"*Prautes*, according to Aristotle, is the middle course in being angry, standing between two extremes, getting angry without reason...and not getting angry at all...Therefore, *prautes* is getting angry at the right time, in the right measure, and for the right reason." (Zodhiates)

"The temper of spirit in which we accept God's dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting; it is closely linked with the word [humility]...it is only the humble heart which is also the meek...This meekness, being first of all a meekness before God, is also such in the face of men, even evil men, out of a sense that these, with the insults and injuries which they may inflict, are permitted and employed by Him for the chastening and purifying of His elect" (Trench)

"...it is difficult to find a rendering less open to objection than 'meekness'; 'gentleness' has been suggested, but as *prautes* describes a condition of mind and heart, and as 'gentleness' is appropriate rather to actions, this word is no better... Described negatively, meekness is the opposite of self-assertiveness and self-interest; it is equanimity of spirit that is neither elated nor cast down, simply because it is not occupied with itself at all." (Hogg & Vine)

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## *Lecture # 5*

*Blessed are they that hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.*  
*(Matt.5:6)*

### **I. Old Testament background for this idea**

- A. The thirsty land motif (Ps.143:6/42:1-3/63:1,5)
- B. Prayer for and Promise of relief (Isa. 45:8/64:1-5/Isa.35:7/61:11—62:2/55:1)
- C. The spiritual fulfillment (Isa. 32:15-17/44:3/John 7:37-39/Rom.8:4)

### **II. Obsessive craving**

- A. Fatal attractions (1 John 2:15-17/Isa.55:1-2/Prov.10:2/11:4, 19)
- B. Do not seek happiness, but righteousness. You will obtain happiness in the bargain.  
(Matt.6:33/Rom.14:17/Prov.16:8)

### **III. What is righteousness?**

- A. Right standing with God (Gen.15:6)
- B. Personal integrity
  - 1. Right behavior (1 John 3:7, 10/Deut 6:25/Ps.15:2/Acts 10:35)
  - 2. Heart righteousness (Matt.5:20)
  - 3. Intolerance of sin (Ps.45:7/101:3-4 (52:3)/106:30-31)
- C. Social justice
  - 1. An end of oppression (Isa.1:16-17/5:7/Ps.103:6)
  - 2. An end of inequity (Lev.19:15/Ps.82:2-4/98:9)

### **IV. Evidence of such hunger and thirst**

- A. Prayer (Zech.10:1)
- B. Repentance (Hos.10:12)
- C. Gluttony for God's Word (Amos 8:11-13/Isa.55:1-2/Ps.1:1-3/119:40, 123,172/ 19:7-10/Jer.15:16/2 Tim.3:16)
- D. Obsessive persistence (Gal.6:9/Pr.2:1-5/Phil.3:13-14)

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## *Lectures #6 & 7*

*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy (Matt.5:7)*

### **I. The need for mercy from God**

- A. Our debt to God (Matt.6:12)
- B. What God owes us (Rom.6:23)
- C. The principle of reciprocity (Luke 6:31, 37-38/James 2:13/Rev.16:5-7/18:6-8/Matt.25:31-46)

### **II. Merciful dealings: on God's short list of top priorities (Mic.6:8/Hos.6:6/Matt.23:23)**

### **III. Mercy = "moved with compassion" (Matt.9:36/14:14/18:27/Mark 1:41/6:36)**

- A. Compassion without action is of little value (James 2:15-16/1 John 3:17-18)
- B. Action without proper motivation is also unacceptable (Matt.6:1-4/1 Cor.13:3/Prov.15:8/21:27)
- C. Mercy always involves the surrender of personal rights or privileges (Matt.5:38-42/1 Cor.6:7/James 5:6)
- D. The breadth of mercy (Matt.5:43-48/ Ex.23:4-5/Prov. 25:21)

### **IV. The circumstances of merciful dealings**

#### **A. Where there is offense**

- 1. Charitable Judgment (Matt.7:1-2/James 4:11-12/John 7:24)
- 2. Forgiveness (Mark 11:25)
- 3. Responsible pardon (Gal. 6:1/Luke 17:3-4/Matt.18:15-17)
- 4. Divine reciprocity in this mercy (Matt.6:12-15/Mark 11:26/Matt.18:34-35)

#### **B. Where there is need (Isa.58:6-7)**

- 1. Relief of suffering (Luke 10:36-37/Gal.6:2)
- 2. Giving to the poor (Matt.5:42/Prov.14:21, 31)
- 3. Responsible assistance (2 Thess.3:10/1 Tim.5:3-16)
- 4. Divine reciprocity in this mercy (Prov.11:17, 24-26/19:17/Ps.37:25-26/41:1)

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## *Lecture # 8*

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God (Matt.5:8)*

### **I. Old Testament background for this idea—Psalm 24:3**

### **II. The doctrine of "seeing God"**

#### *A. God is invisible (1 Tim. 1:17)*

1. No one can see Him and live (Exod.33:20-23)
2. No one has seen God (John 1:18/1 Tim.6:16)
3. We love Him without having seen Him (1 Pet.1:8/1 John 4:20)

#### *B. In certain cases, God can be "seen"*

1. In theophanies (Gen.18:1/32:30/Judges 13:22)
2. In visions (Exod.24:10/Num.12:6/Isa.6:1)
3. In creation (Rom.1:20)
4. In Jesus (John 14:9/Col.1:15/Heb.1:3)
5. By inward revelation (John 14:21-23)
6. Faith is as good as sight (Heb.11:1, 13, 27/2 Cor.4:18)
7. At His coming (Job.19:25-27/1 John 3:2-3/1 Cor.13:12)

#### *C. The qualification for seeing God (Hebrews 12:14)*

### **III. The importance of the "heart"**

#### *A. The heart is the seat of all secret thoughts, emotions, and motives (Prov.23:6-7)*

#### *B. All of life's issues emanate from the heart (Prov.4:23/Matt.15:18-19)*

#### *C. God's primary interest is in the state of the heart (1 Sam.16:7)*

#### *D. Love out of a pure heart is the goal of Christianity (1 Tim.1:5/1 Pet.1:22/2 Tim.2:22)*

#### **IV. What constitutes purity of heart?**

*A. Purged of guilt (Heb.9:14/10:22)*

*B. Without guile (John 1:47/Rev.14:5/Matt.6:1-18/Eph.6:6)*

*C. Unpolluted*

1. Wholly for God (Matt.22:37/James 4:8)

2. Simplicity (Acts 2:46/Luke 10:41-42)

3. Morally pure (Matt.5:28/Job 31:1)

4. Not loving money (Matt.6:21-24/13:22/1 Tim.6:6-10)

5. Trusting, not doubting (James 1:8/Mark 11:23)

#### **V. Signs of heart pollution**

*A. Casual thought and speech (Matt.12:34/Jas.3:10-17/Ps.19:14)*

*B. Lukewarmness (1 Pet.1:22/Rev.3:15/Matt.24:12)*

*C. No confidence before man or God (Prov.28:1/1 John 3:20-21)*

#### **VI. Keeping the heart pure**

*A. Pray for it (Ps.51:10/Phil.4:6-7)*

*B. Walk in the light (1 John 1:7-10/Eph.5:13)*

*C. Hold fast your profession of faith (Heb.3:12/10:23)*

*D. Cast out idols (Ezek.14:3/Matt.5:29-30/19:21/1 John 5:21)*

*E. Fill the heart and mind: pro-active purity (Eph.5:19/Phil.4:8)*

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## *Lecture #9*

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God (Matt.5:9)*

### **I. The God of peace (Rom.15:33/Isa.9:6)**

- A. The Imparter of peace in the midst of turbulence (Mark 4:39/John 16:33/Isa.26:3)*
- B. Reconciling His own enemies to Himself (2 Cor.5:19/Col.1:19-20/Eph.2:16)*
- C. Creating peace between hostile third parties (Prov.16:7/Eph.2:11-15)*

### **II. The children of God are known by their resemblance to Him (Eph.5:1)**

- A. Peaceable in disposition (Luke 10:6/Tit.3:2/James 3:17/Gal.5:22/Gen.13:8/Matt.5:39-45)*
- B. Pursuing peace with all men (Rom.12:18/Heb.12:14)*
- C. Repairers of the breach (Isa.58:11-12/Acts 7:26/James 3:18)*

### **III. Responsible peace (Psalm 85:10)**

- A. Peace and a sword (Matt.10:34-35/Rom.12:18/Ps.120:6-7)*
- B. Peace neglected (Isa.48:18/Luke 19:41-44)*
- C. Terms of peace with God (and man)*
  - 1. The causes of strife
    - a. The wicked at war against God (Isa.57:20-21/James 4:4/Jer.16:5)
    - b. Pride at the core of strife (Prov.13:10)
    - c. Jealous lust (James 4:1-2)
  - 2. Terms of surrender:
    - a. Humility (James 4:6/1 Pet.5:5)
    - b. Trust (Isa.30:15/Rom.5:1/Phil.4:6-7)

### **IV. "The way of peace" (Isa.59:8/Luke 1:79)**

- A. Gracious tolerance of diversity of opinion (Rom.14:1-7, 17-19/Eph.4:1-3)*
- B. Peaceful words (Prov.12:18/15:1/25:15/Ps.34:12-14/2 Tim.2:24-25)*
- C. Overcome evil with good (Rom.12:18-21/1 Cor.6:7/Gen.13:9)*
- D. Pray for peace (Ps.122:6/1 Tim.2:1-4)*
- E. Evangelism (2 Cor.5:20/Eph.6:15/Isa.52:7)*

# *The Beatitudes*

## *Lecture #10*

*Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Matt.5:10)*

### **I. The War against the saints**

*A. Satanic hostility (Rev.12:10-12)*

*B. The kingdom given to those who suffer for it (Dan.7:21-22/ 11:32-35/Acts 14:22)*

*C. Old Testament Examples:*

1. Cain and Abel
2. Joseph
3. David
4. Messiah (Isa.53:3, 7-8, 12/Luke 24:25-26)

### **II. Reasons for the world's animosity toward those who have escaped from it (John 15:19)**

*A. Human rebellion against God and His anointed (Psalm 2:1-3/ "for Name sake" Matt.5:11)*

*B. Resentment against righteousness (1 John 3:11-13/1 Pet.4:1-4/ "for righteousness' sake")*

*C. No blessing for being persecuted for bad behavior (1 Pet.4:15-16/2:19-20)*

### **III. The Christian's proper response**

*A. Flight is permitted (Matt.10:23/ACTS 9:23-25), but not forcible resistance (Matt.5:39/James 5:6)*

*B. Remember Jesus (Heb.12:1-4)*

*C. Rejoice (Matt.5:12)*

1. Because their hostility can be taken as a compliment (Acts 5:41)
2. Because you are given an opportunity to glorify God (1 Pet.4:13-14)

*D. Bless them, Do good to them, pray for them (Matt.5:44/Rom.12:17-21)*

*E. Pray for ultimate vindication of God's people (Rev.6:9-11)*

*F. Increase you own resolve to press on into the Kingdom (Matt.11:12/Acts 14:2-3/19-20)*