

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Matthew Chapters 5-7

Jesus gave the sermon as a standard for all Christians, realizing that it's requirements can not be met in our own power.

Beatitudes

Jesus starts off the "Beatitudes" (Matthew 5:3-12). He tells us how to be truly "blessed" – blessing being our ultimate well being and distinctive spiritual joy. Blessing (shalom) has also been defined as "incorporating the meaning of wholeness, of joy, of well being, of holistic peace ..., of the condition of inner satisfaction expressed by Jesus in John 14:27 where he said 'my peace I give unto you, not as the world gives'".

Jesus disputes the conventional wisdom which says the wealthy and influential enjoy more of God's blessings. The beatitudes have been described as "lifestyle goals", "basis for ethical behavior", "standards for believers" and gets to the heart of the quality of life that God intends for us. The closer we come to Jesus standards, the more we experience the blessing of God.

There are 8 "counsels" contained:

1) **Verse 3: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven".**

"Poor in spirit" is opposite of "rich in pride". Speaks of being humble, not proud. Other relevant scriptures:

Matthew 18:4

Matthew 23:12

James 1:9-11, 4:1-10 (esp v. 6)

Gal 6:4

2) **Verse 4: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted"**

"Mourn" = to care deeply; deep concern

3) **Verse 5: "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth"**

Meek = humility (application of humility to behavior)

“Power under control” (e.g. Moses in Number 12:3)

Psalms 37:11

4) Verse 6: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled”

Seeking after God – seeking a right relationship with God; seeking what is good, just, right and equitable

Psalms 42:1-2

5) Verse 7: “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy”

Merciful = compassionate

Mathew 18:21-35

6) Verse 8: “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God”

Heart = center of our being, including our mind, will and emotions

Pure in heart = integrity; clean and undefiled in thoughts, feelings and behaviors

Psalms 51:6-12

Phil 4:8

7) Verse 9: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God”

Peacemaker = one who causes peace, who causes quietness and rest; one who seeks to build and sustain unity

Matthew 12:25

8) Verses 10-12: “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of

evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you”.

This beatitude is a call to commitment – standing up for what we believe even when it costs us something.

Matthew 10:32-39

Case Study: Stephen in Acts 7