

THE BLESSINGS OF THE BEATITUDES “The Be Attitudes”

Introduction-

Matt 3:16-17

Matt 4:1, 2-10, 11

The Lord showed His authority over the “prince of this world” by meekly adhering to the Word of the Father. The devil had to depart!

Matt 4:17 – The kingdom of heaven is at hand (soon coming).

Matt 4:23-25 – great multitudes followed Him.

Matt 5:1 – Jesus heads to the mountaintop and His *disciples* follow Him.

Beatitudes-

Matt 5:2

Beatitude – supreme blessedness or happiness. Latin *beatitudo*, from *beatus*, blessed.

Blessed – Greek, *makarios*, supremely blest, happy.

These sayings of Jesus teach us how to truly be happy. They express the “be attitudes” of the citizens of the kingdom of heaven.

Be Attitudes-

Matt 5:3-12

Each culture seems to have a defining mark (i.e. precise Germans, industrious Japanese). These attitudes should mark the citizens of heaven.

Blessed are . . .

Matt 5:3 the poor in spirit

- Luke 4:18
- Rev 3:17-18

Matt 5:4 those who mourn

- James 4:8-10
- Matt 9:14-15

Matt 5:5 the meek

- Matt 11:29-30
- Matt 21:5

Matt 5:6 those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

- John 6:35
- Rev 7:13-17

The disciple of Christ is to be characterized by a craving and thirst for the righteousness of God. This is received by coming to Jesus and believing on Him (John 6:35) and is walked out by feeding and giving drink to our enemies (Rom 12:20) and to the brethren (Matt 25:34-35), while being content in whatever state the Lord has placed us in (Phil 4:12-13).

Matt 5:7 the merciful

- Heb 2:17-18

Matt 5:8 the pure in heart

- Heb 4:12
- 1 John 3:1-3

Matt 5:9 the peacemakers

- KJV: children = Greek *huios*, sons.
- Mark 9:33-35, 49-50
- Matt 5:43-45

It takes self-sacrifice and maturity to make peace. It is a sign of sonship (Rom 8:14).

Matt 5:10 when you are persecuted

Matt 5:11 when you are reviled

- Luke 6:26 *woe if we are not!*

Matt 5:12 rejoice and be exceeding glad

- Exceeding glad = jumping for joy

Present Tense Realities-

Matt 5:3-10

- Vs. 3 – *theirs is the kingdom of heaven*
- Vs. 4 – they **shall be** comforted
- Vs. 5 – they **shall** inherit the earth
- Vs. 6 – they **shall be** filled
- Vs. 7 – they **shall** obtain mercy
- Vs. 8 – they **shall** see God
- Vs. 9 – they **shall be** called the sons of God
- Vs. 10 – *theirs is the kingdom of heaven*

Of all the blessings, those for being poor in spirit and persecuted for righteousness sake are stated in the present tense. They place us in a present tense reality of walking in the authority of heaven on earth.

We are never so close to God as when we realize our absolute dependency upon Him and are persecuted for His righteousness' sake!