

The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:1-12

1: When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2: And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

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

4: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5: "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11: "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

12: Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Let's stop here for a minute and consider first who is saying this. Verse 2 states and he (Jesus) began teaching them. This is teachings straight from the mouth of Jesus, the Son of God, given to His disciples, and handed down to us over the centuries!

God has come down to earth, as a man, destined to sacrifice Himself for you, and before He does, He is giving you advice on how you should live!

I understand that the non-believer is going to not feel the weight of this statement, but every Christian should recognize that this IS GOD speaking to you. You want God to reveal something to you? Here it is!

I see so many Christians who take the words of Jesus, the second aspect of the Trinity, as simply advice. “Yeah, I should do that, but I just can’t.”

What? You claim to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, sacrificed for you, sitting at the right hand of God, interceding for you, and you do not hang on His every Word?

If the throne of God was here on earth, and He uttered a truth, would not you die trying to do what He said? Would it not be the most important thing you had ever heard? Would it not be an absolute in your life?

If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, then that is how you should treat the Bible; not as a book of advice but do all that He said with fear and trembling that you may fall short of your Master and Lord’ desire for you!

The first thing that Jesus taught was that those who are “poor in spirit” will belong in the Kingdom of Heaven. We know that He says it is hard for a rich man to enter heaven, but it is not impossible (Matthew 19:24). If a person who is rich in this world, is poor in spirit, then he can make it to heaven. Those who are “poor in spirit” recognize that their earthly gain means nothing and that they are

spiritually bankrupt and in need of someone to pay their spiritual debt.

This is the commandment of God: If you want to see the Kingdom of Heaven you must know that you cannot ever be spiritually good enough on your own; you must recognize your need for a Savior.

Next, Jesus stated that those who mourn will be comforted and this is a blessing for them. When our hearts are broken in love for our Savior, or for others that need His help, we please God. He wants us to bring these things before Him in prayer, mourn our transgressions, and mourn for those who are slipping into Hell. Later He will comfort us and we will mourn no more!

The meek are blessed, and they will inherit the earth. It is the meek, not the conqueror, that will inherit the earth in the final days. I have heard Christian businessmen say that they are humble before God, but in business they must be ruthless. I say you are in the wrong business! If you cannot follow the teachings of your Lord and Savior in your work, then you are doing the wrong work!

Those that seek righteousness will be filled. Stop seeking the worldly things, and hunger and thirst for righteousness. This is what Jesus has told you to do, and everything that He tells you to do comes from the Father.

Next, the merciful will receive mercy. Do you want mercy instead of harsh judgment? Be merciful to others! Not just in the next life but in this one also. Do you want God to punish you for every little thing? He will instruct you, but if you are merciful to others, He will show great mercy to you. You will reap what you sow.

The pure in heart are blessed and will see God. You can't see God when your heart is filled with sin, the desires of the world, and the lusts of the flesh. You want to see God in you day to day walk? Purify

you heart! If your heart is not pure, be careful what voices are leading you.

The peacemakers will be called the children of God. God desires peace among men and His children will be peacemakers. They will not create strife, envy, confusion, or jealousy. They will bring peace to the situations around them. Do you bring peace to others, or do you escalate their problems? If you escalate their problems, then you should look carefully at whether or not you are a child of God. God's children bring peace.

And, finally, we are blessed when we are persecuted, reviled, and spoken evilly of. We are not a part of the world but have come out of the world to a part of Christ. We are hidden in Him. The world no longer recognizes us. We are outsiders, aliens, different, and hated for it. If the world is not against you, then they see you as their own. If the world thinks you are one of them, then you are not following Christ's teachings. When you follow His teachings, you are different, and they will mock you and treat you bad, even other professing Christians, as they are still in the world.

Now, I understand that the Beatitudes are something that I could teach a lot more on. Each one could have its own sermon, with lots of cross references in the Bible.

That's not the point here...

The point is to ask if you are following these. Are you poor in spirit? Do you mourn sins? Are you meek? Do you hunger and thirst for righteousness? Are you merciful? Are you pure in heart? Are you a peacemaker? Do you rejoice in doing His will regardless of the consequences?

The point of this is to ask you why you do not do these things if you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and that He said these things?

Why do you see them as optional?

Don't you know that you will stand before Him in judgment of your works as a Christian?

DON'T YOU THINK THAT IF GOD SAID THIS, YOU SHOULD STOP AT NOTHING TO DO THESE THINGS?