

# The Sermon on the Mount

## The Beatitudes - Part 2 (Matt 5:3-12)

### INTRODUCTION:

- I. When Jesus began His ministry, the Scriptures tell us He began preaching in the region of Galilee.
  - A. The message of Jesus was simple and is perhaps best summarized by Mark.
    1. **Mark 1:14-15** – *Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*
    2. The preaching of Jesus was described by Mark as the *"gospel of the kingdom."*
      - a. Jesus was preaching the GOSPEL – the GOOD NEWS – about the coming KINGDOM.
      - b. As we stated in the lesson last week, this kingdom would be a SPIRITUAL KINGDOM – a kingdom where the Messiah would reign as Lord of lords and King of kings within the hearts of His disciples.

3. Therefore, to SIMPLIFY the gospel of the kingdom and condense it to its most ELEMENTARY form, Jesus preached the most profound sermon in the history of the world – a sermon we know today as The Sermon on the Mount.
- II. As we continue looking at "The Sermon On The Mount," we noticed in our previous lesson that the first section of the sermon is what we often call "The Beatitudes."
- A. The word "Beatitude" comes from a Latin word that means "happiness many times over," or simply "blessedness or happiness."
    1. Therefore, the beatitudes, which are recorded in Matthew 5:3-12, describe the blessedness or happiness of those who possess certain character traits.
    2. As we mentioned in our first lesson on THE BEATITUDES, Jesus was essentially answering TWO QUESTIONS:
      - a. Who ARE the citizens of this "kingdom of heaven"?
      - b. And what are the BENEFITS or BLESSINGS they receive?
  - B. Therefore, in our FIRST lesson, we looked at "The Beatitudes" from the viewpoint of the CHARACTER TRAITS of those who are citizens of the kingdom. Those character traits are:

1. Being POOR IN SPIRIT – which means to have a humble opinion of ourselves; to be sensitive to the fact that we are sinners.
  2. The ability to MOURN – meaning we mourn, or are deeply sorrowful, over the sins we have committed.
  3. The character trait of being MEEK – which means to be gentle, or have lowliness of mind, or to be gentle and lowly in heart.
  4. The desire to HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS – which is an intense desire for integrity, virtue, and purity of life.
  5. The ability to be MERCIFUL – which is the ability to have pity and compassion for others whether or not they are personally responsible for their circumstances.
  6. The character trait of PURE IN HEART – meaning to be free from corrupt desire, and free from sin and guilt.
  7. The ability to be PEACEMAKERS – those who bring together warring factions so that peace and tranquility may prevail.
  8. Those who are willing to be PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE – who allow themselves to be reviled or reproached, and slandered falsely – all for the sake of Jesus.
- III. All these are the character traits of those who are citizens in the kingdom of heaven. But is it worth it?

A. To answer that, let's now look at the "The Beatitudes" from a slightly DIFFERENT viewpoint so that we can answer the question: "What benefits do citizens of the kingdom receive?"

1. **Matthew 5:1-12** – *And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth 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 shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."*

**BODY:**

- I. The only way we can truly understand the BLESSEDNESS of those who are citizens of the kingdom is to understand them in light of the BENEFITS they receive. For example:
  - A. The FIRST benefit of those who are citizens of the kingdom of heaven is *"THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN."* (v. 3)
    1. This means we are under the sovereign rule of God – we are citizens of the spiritual kingdom of Jesus Christ.
    2. Jesus explained: **Luke 17:20-21** – *"The kingdom of God does not come with observation; 21 nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."*
      - a. The PRESENT manifestation of the "kingdom of heaven" involves those who have obeyed the gospel of Christ and have been added by the Lord to His body of all those who have been redeemed Jesus Christ – that body of the redeemed is the Lord's church.
      - b. However, only those who are truly POOR IN SPIRIT – those who realize their own spiritual poverty – will willingly come to the Lord in faith and obedience, surrendering their lives to Jesus Christ, their Lord and Savior.

3. Therefore, we enjoy the benefits of being in the Lord's church – the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN – if we are truly POOR IN SPIRIT.
- B. The SECOND benefit of those who are citizens of the kingdom is that *"THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED."* (v. 4)
1. The COMFORT we receive is when we MOURN over our sins and over our own spiritual poverty.
    - a. We are certainly comforted NOW by the fact that we can receive COMPLETE and TOTAL FORGIVENESS of EVERY sin we've ever committed.
      - (1). If the blood of Jesus Christ could cleanse the sins of the very people who crucified Him, the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse any sin you may have committed in the past – no matter how terrible.
    - b. And we shall ALSO be comforted by God in the FUTURE in heaven.
      - (1). **Revelation 21:1-4** – *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold,*

*the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."*

2. However, there is also ANOTHER form of COMFORT God gives us NOW – He comforts us when we face various troubles or trials.
  - a. **2 Corinthians 1:3-4** – *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*
- C. Another blessing of those who are citizens of the kingdom is "**THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH.**" But what does this really mean? (**v. 5**)
  1. First of all, it does NOT mean that we will inherit great lands or possess great amounts of property on earth.
  2. There are a couple of ways this expression might be interpreted.
    - a. Some suggest the phrase "*they shall inherit the earth*" means those who live meek and peaceful lives will prosper in this world and will be able to live in relative peace and happiness.

(1). In fact, this seems to be quite possible since this phrase is found in the Psalms and is used in connection with those who will be blessed with peace and security.

(2). **Psalm 37:9-11** – *For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. 10 For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; indeed, you will look carefully for his place, but it shall be no more. 11 But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.*

b. Other translations render this phrase as "*they shall inherit the LAND*" (Young's Literal Translation), and in this sense, "*the LAND*" stood for the land of Canaan which the Israelites, in a metaphorical sense, saw as the SUM of ALL JEHOVAH'S BLESSINGS.

(1). Therefore, Jesus could be using this phrase in a metaphorical sense as the SUM of all SPIRITUAL and TEMPORAL BLESSINGS.

c. And in another sense the land of Canaan is often used metaphorically to speak of HEAVEN itself.

(1). Therefore, Jesus could have also been referring to the fact that the meek will not only live in relative peace and

prosperity now, enjoying the richness of God's blessings,  
but will also inherit heaven at the end of this life.

D. A FOURTH benefit of those who are citizens of the kingdom is "*THEY SHALL BE FILLED.*"

1. Since a common character trait of the Christian is someone who has an intense "*HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS,*" Jesus promises "*THEY SHALL BE FILLED*" with that for which they hunger and thirst -- righteousness. **(v. 6)**

a. As Albert Barnes put it: "Never was there a desire to be holy which God was not willing to gratify, and the gospel of Christ has made provision to satisfy all who truly desire to be holy."  
(Barnes' Notes)

b. And, since RIGHTEOUSNESS is defined as "...integrity, virtue, purity of life, uprightness, correctness in thinking, feeling, and acting..." then that's what God grants us through the blood of Jesus Christ.

E. A FIFTH blessing of those who are citizens of the kingdom is "*THEY SHALL OBTAIN MERCY.*" **(v. 7)**

1. Since they have shown compassion and merciful forgiveness toward others, God will do the same in return.

2. Kindness, love and mercy has ALWAYS been the basis of God's dealing with humankind – even though there is NOTHING we have done to DESERVE or MERIT the mercy of God.
  - a. In fact, we actually DESERVE DEATH.
  - b. But because God is compassionate and loving, He extended His mercy and forgiveness to you and to me when we least deserve it.
  
2. The apostle Paul put it this way in his letter to Titus:
  - a. **Titus 3:3-7** – *For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*
  - b. This passage describes our sinful nature quite well – *"foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another."*

- c. Only a compassionate, loving, merciful and gracious God would want to save people like us.
  - d. And this passage clearly tells us that we have obtained salvation on the basis of God amazing grace – and certainly NOT by anything WE have done to deserve it.
3. Therefore, since God has extended such wonderful grace and mercy toward us, He expects US to be merciful toward OTHERS as well.
- a. Do you remember the parable of The Unmerciful Servant – **Matthew 18-23-35?**
  - b. Using exaggeration to drive home His point, Jesus told the parable of a servant who owed something like \$3 BILLION dollars, by today's economy, and was thrown in jail because he couldn't repay it. But his master had compassion on him and forgave him that \$3 BILLION dollar debt. But that servant went to a fellow servant who owed him something like \$5,000 dollars by today's standards. When the \$5,000 dollar debtor couldn't pay he was thrown in prison. Word eventually got back to the master of how unmerciful the \$3 Billion dollar debtor had been to the man who owed him \$5,000 dollars. So the master threw that \$3 Billion dollar debtor back in prison

and once again demanded that every penny of the \$3 Billion dollar debt be repaid – all because that servant was wicked, unforgiving, and unmerciful toward his fellow servant.

- c. Then Jesus ended the parable with these words: **Matthew 18:35** – *"So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."*

4. A little later in this series of studies on the Sermon on the Mount, we will see this correlation between US forgiving OTHERS and GOD forgiving US.

- a. **Matthew 6:14-15** – *"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."*

5. Therefore, a blessing those who are citizens in the kingdom of heaven receive is MERCY because we have LIKEWISE been merciful and forgiving toward others.

F. The SIXTH blessing Jesus mentions of those who are citizens of the kingdom of heaven is that **"THEY SHALL SEE GOD" (v. 8)**

- 1. Remember, Jesus said the blessing of being able to SEE GOD is given to those who are PURE IN HEART.

- a. And we defined PURE IN HEART as meaning those who are "free from corrupt desire, from sin and guilt." (Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon)
2. But in what ways will we be able to see God?
3. An OBVIOUS way that we will see God is eventually seeing Him in all His glory in heaven – **Revelation 22:4a** – *They shall see His face...*
  - a. Think about that – when God passed before Moses and allowed the leader of Israel to see God's glory, Moses was not permitted to see God's face.
    - (1). **Exodus 33:20** – God told Moses: *"You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live."*
  - b. However, the day is coming when those who are pure in heart WILL see the face of almighty God.
  - c. If that doesn't give you chills, then I don't know what will.
4. But I think there is another way in which those who are pure in heart will see God – we will see God in Jesus Christ.
  - a. We see Jesus as the Hebrew writer described Him:
    - (1). **Hebrews 1:3** – ...the **brightness** of His [God the Father's] glory and the express **image** of His person...

- (2). This means the man Jesus reveals the very nature and essence of Jehovah God because Jesus is Himself God the Son (having all the qualities and characteristics of deity, and equal to the Father in every respect).
- b. This is also why the apostle Paul described Jesus in this manner:
  - (1). **Colossians 1:15** – ...the ***image*** of the invisible God, the *firstborn over all creation.*
- c. This is also why Jesus was able to tell Philip and the other apostles:
  - (1). **John 14:9a** – "*He who has seen Me has seen the Father...*"
  - (2). In other words, when we look upon Jesus Christ, we see Him for who and what He really is – the very essence of God the Father.
  - (3). When we see all the goodness, tenderness, compassion, love and mercy in the life of Jesus, we see the good, tender, compassionate, loving and merciful attributes of God the Father.
- d. But only those who are truly PURE IN HEART will see Jesus as their Lord and Savior because they are the only ones who

recognize the authority of Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords, and the Sovereign Ruler and King of their lives.

G. The SEVENTH blessing Jesus mentions of those who are citizens of the kingdom of heaven is "*THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF GOD*" (v. 9) (The KJV uses the term "*CHILDREN OF GOD*")

1. If you remember, this is a blessing promised to those who are PEACEMAKERS – those who are "founders and promoters of peace are meant; who not only keep the peace, but seek to bring people into harmony with each other." (Vincent's Word Studies in the New Testament)
2. The term SONS OF GOD or CHILDREN OF GOD can actually have a couple of meanings.
  - a. In one sense we are SONS OF GOD or CHILDREN OF GOD in terms of our RELATIONSHIP with God.

(1). **Galatians 3:26-29** – *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

- (2). When we come to God in faith and are baptized into Christ, we become the children or offspring of God – we are in the spiritual family that belongs to God.
- b. But we are also SONS OF GOD or CHILDREN OF GOD in the sense that we are partakers of the DIVINE NATURE of God.
- (1). The term SON OF was often used in Scripture to describe the CHARACTER or ATTRIBUTES of someone.
  - (2). They are a partaker to a high degree of whatever it is that they are a son of. For example:
    - (a). **Mark 3:17** – the apostles James and John were called “sons of thunder” by Jesus; apparently because of their rather sudden flashes of anger (like the time they wanted Jesus to call down fire on the cities that had rejected Him).
    - (b). **Matthew 13:37-40** – in the parable of the wheat and tares Jesus said the wheat were the sons of the kingdom while the tares were those who were sons of the wicked one (the devil himself).
    - (c). **John 8:44** – Jesus told those Jews who did not believe in Him and who wanted to crucify Him that

they were of their father, the devil (another way of saying they are sons of the devil), because they were just like him: liars and murderers.

(3). But those who are SONS OF GOD or CHILDREN OF God are able to enjoy that unique relationship because we have the same ATTRIBUTES or CHARACTER as God the Father and Jesus Christ – we become partakers of His divine nature.

(a). **2 Peter 1: 4** – Peter says we have been given:

*exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

3. So how is it that those who are PEACEMAKERS are called SONS OF GOD or CHILDREN OF GOD?

a. As peacemakers, we are SONS OF GOD because God is the God of peace, and promotes peace and harmony.

(1). **Romans 15:33** – *Now the God of peace be with you all.*

(2). **2 Corinthians 13:11** – *Finally, brethren, farewell.*

*Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind,*

*live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.*

- b. But there is another way in which we are peacemakers is that we proclaim the "gospel of peace" – the good news about Jesus Christ – that is able to reconcile and bring about peace between mankind and God through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ.

(1). **Ephesians 2:14-18** – Speaking of Jesus, Paul said: For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, [both Jew and Gentile] and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both [both Jew and Gentile] to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

4. While we may be the kind of person who promotes peace between people who have been at odds with one another, the GREATEST

way we can promote peace is to take the GOSPEL OF PEACE to others and help them to be RECONCILED to God through the blood of Jesus Christ.

5. If we do that, we will truly be PEACEMAKERS between those who are lost in sin and the God of heaven.
- H. Finally, Jesus said of those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, "THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" (v. 10)
1. As we have seen on several occasions, the term KINGDOM OF HEAVEN can refer to either:
    - a. The kingdom the Lord came to establish – meaning, it is the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN because it is a SPIRITUAL or HEAVENLY kingdom, or...
    - b. The term can refer to HEAVEN itself – our eternal home in the presence of God.
  2. In the context of **verse 10**, the term KINGDOM OF HEAVEN seems to be referring to heaven itself.
    - a. In fact, Jesus goes on to say: **Matthew 5:11-12** – *"Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."*

- b. In other words, when we are persecuted for the sake of righteousness we are promised all the blessings associated with heaven itself.
  - c. Our reward is GREAT – from the Greek word "pol-OOS," meaning our reward in heaven is INTENSE, DEEP, PROFOUND, UNFATHOMABLE!!
    - (1). There are simply no words in the human language that can adequately describe just how GREAT that reward will be.
3. Why is it that we receive this GREAT REWARD in heaven? There are two reasons given.
- a. First, the obvious – we are persecuted for the sake of RIGHTEOUSNESS.
  - b. Second, our reward in heaven is GREAT because we are being persecuted like those faithful PROPHETS of old
    - (1). We are persecuted because, like those prophets who went before us, we chose to stand for righteousness in the face of unrighteousness!
    - (2). We are persecuted like those prophets who went before us because, like them, we would not surrender our

convictions but maintained our faithfulness to the Lord to the very end.

## CONCLUSION:

- I. Did you notice that the reward of THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN is mentioned twice in the Beatitudes?
  - A. Jesus mentioned twice that those who possess the unique character of citizens of the kingdom will receive the reward of THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.
    1. **Matthew 5:3** – *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*
    2. **Matthew 5:10** – *"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*
      - a. In **Matthew 5:3** Jesus speaks of the PRESENT manifestation of the *"kingdom of heaven"* – speaking of those who have obeyed the gospel of Christ and have been added by the Lord to His body of all those who have been redeemed Jesus Christ.
        - (1). That body of the redeemed is the Lord's church.
      - b. However, in **Matthew 5:10** Jesus speaks of the FUTURE manifestation of *"kingdom of heaven"* – which involves the

"new heavens and new earth" in the ETERNAL sense, which will be manifested after the second coming of Jesus Christ.

3. Therefore, only those who are POOR IN SPIRIT – only those who have a humble opinion of themselves and are sensitive to the fact that they are sinners – are able to come to the Lord in faith and obedience, and will therefore enjoy the benefits of being added by the Lord to His church.
  4. But ONLY those who are PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE will receive the blessings of heaven after this life is over.
    - a. Why? Because the apostle Paul told Timothy: **2 Timothy 3:12** – *Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*
    - b. Persecution goes hand-in-hand with godly living.
- II. Have you been persecuted for righteousness sake?
- A. Are you living GODLY IN CHRIST JESUS? Paul said those who do WILL SUFFER PERSECUTION.
    1. If we've never been persecuted for the SAKE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, could there be some valid REASON?

- a. Could it be that we have blended in with the world so much, or have kept our Christianity hidden so well, that no one really knows we're a Christian?
  - b. Or could it be that we've never come to Jesus Christ and made Him our Lord and Savior through our faithful obedience?
- B. If either of these are the reason for us not being persecuted for the sake of righteousness, then we will NOT inherit the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.
- 1. The Lord will not reward heaven to those who are not willing to commit their lives to Him.
    - a. However, you CAN receive the reward of heaven by coming to the Lord this very day in faith and obedience, being baptized into Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins.
  - 2. And, just as the Lord will not reward those who will not commit their lives to Him, neither will He reward heaven to those Christians who live their lives in such a way as to avoid being persecuted for the sake of righteous living.
    - a. As we will see in our next lesson, you and I as Christians need to be letting our light so shine before men that they will SEE our good works and glorify our Father in heaven.
    - b. If you're ashamed to let your light shine before others, then you need to quit playing the hypocrite and just get out!

- c. But if you're light can't shine before men because it's obscured by unforgiven sin in your life, then you need to repent of that sin, confess it, and be fully restored.