

The Sermon on the Mount

Part I: The Beatitudes

“And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: Blessed...”
(Matthew 5:1-3)

Introduction

1. Our purpose: to learn how to be LIKE Jesus!
 - a. To be true disciples.
 - b. To love as He loves.
 - c. To increase our faith – to trust the power and authority of His words.
2. The Sermon on the Mount provides a foundation for our lives (Matt. 7:24) and a self-portrait of Jesus.
3. He teaches us how to become like Him.

Discussion

I. The Context:

- A. Matthew’s Account: Matt. 5:1
 1. Jesus went up on to a mountain
 2. The multitude was all around.
 3. He called His disciples to Himself and began to teach.
- B. Luke’s Account: Luke 6:12-20
 1. After appointing the twelve, Jesus healed the multitude.
 2. His disciples were with him.
 3. He went down to a level place, lifted His eyes toward His disciples, and began to teach.
- C. What we learn from the setting of these two accounts.
 1. Jesus gave these teachings more than once.
 2. There are differences in the sermon accounts, but they do not disagree.
 3. The show varying emphasis as He taught the same truths in multiple places.
 4. Comparing the two accounts helps to enlighten us and broaden our understanding of the spiritual truths upon which we are to build our lives.

II. “Beatitude” and “Blessed”

- A. Defined: A blessing or declaration of blessedness attributed to quality or behavior.
 1. “Blessed.” Supreme happiness, joy, or bliss.
 2. As distinct from carnal pleasure, the blessedness Jesus declares brings lasting, spiritual happiness unaffected by momentary feelings.
 - a. Blessed are the poor (or poor in spirit)
 - b. Blessed are those who mourn.

- c. I.e. what may “feel” negative to the flesh or fleshly mind brings true and genuine blessedness to the soul of one whose mind is set on the Spirit.
- B. DISCUSSION: How should this transform our understanding, expectation, and pursuit of joy or happiness? _____

III. The Beatitudes: Matthew 5:3-10; Luke 6:20-26

- A. Matt. 5:3; Luke 6:20, 24-25: Poor In Spirit
 - 1. Matthew: “poo in spirit”
 - 2. Luke: “you poor”
 - 3. Matthew emphasis the spirit truth, Luke highlights physical attributes that illustrate the spiritual truth.
 - 4. “Poor” is to be empty. Poor in spirit is empty of spirit, as opposed to being full of oneself.
 - 5. One who is full, satisfied in this life, satiated by their current circumstances has no room for God. Their comfort and consolation are in this life and not in Christ.
 - 6. Luke 6:24-25: “Woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full, for you shall hunger.”
 - 7. Read the parable of the rich fool for illustration in Luke 12:13-21.
 - 8. Proverbs 14:14: “The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways, but a good man *will be satisfied* from above.”
- B. Matt. 5:6: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.
 - 1. Is “be filled” passive or active?
 - 2. Passive! God is the one who fills us with His righteousness.
 - 3. But we can only be filled if we are hungry and not full of our own righteousness (see Rom. 10:1-3).
- C. Matt. 5:4: “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”
 - 1. The poor in spirit acknowledge their total dependance on God.
 - 2. That is how Jesus lived His entire life in the flesh (John 5:19, 30).
 - 3. Our poorness of spirit opens our heart to recognize the disparity between our own sins and the righteousness of God.
 - 4. Like the publican in Luke 18:10-14, we fall upon God’s mercy as we acknowledge our sins. And like that man, those who mourn will be comforted, being justified by God.
- D. Matt. 5:5: “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”
 - 1. This expressed is used extensively in the Old Testament.
 - 2. Read Psalm 37 for example.
 - 3. “Inherit the earth” is synonymous with being exalted by God and receiving the fullness of His promises and blessings.
 - 4. The meek of those who follow Christ are promised to become fellow heirs with Him in His kingdom, who is “heir of the world” (Rom. 4:13), who received the earth as His possession (Psalm 2), and whose people “reign with Him” (Rev. 1:6; 5:10).
- E. Blessed are...
 - 1. Vs. 7: The merciful, for they shall obtain mercy (see also Matt. 6:14; 7:2; Mark 11:25).

2. Vs. 8: The pure in heart, for they shall see God.
 - a. The pure in heart is free from corruption and hypocrisy. They seek God in simplicity and sincerity.
 - b. 1 John 3:2: The true children of God will “see Him as He is.”
3. Vs. 9: The peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
 - a. Isaiah 9:6: The Christ is called the “Prince of peace.”
 - b. James 3:18: Those who seek wisdom from above make peace as the fruit of righteousness.
 - c. Romans 12:18: And strive to live peaceably with all men.
4. Vs. 10-12: Those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of God.
 - a. What did Jesus do to establish His kingdom?
 - b. He died on the cross.
 - c. His willingness to die expressed more than one beatitude- it expressed all of them.
 - d. 1 Peter 4:12-19: Those who belong in His kingdom will likewise follow in His example. They “commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.”

Conclusion

1. As we explore these beatitudes, who should they transform our thinking?
2. Think back to our discussion on Jesus’ teachings on faith.
3. What confidence can we have in Jesus’ words? His commands? If we believe in the authority of Jesus, then, like the Centurion who had “great faith” (Luke 7:9), when Jesus speaks a word, we know absolutely it will come to pass.
4. The beatitudes are Jesus speaking that word. He declares blessedness to those who strive for these qualities.
5. Let us heed His words and pursue His promises with absolute faith in Him.