



September 27th- Rev . Hugh Barlett

Matthew 5:1–10 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And 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 satisfied. ⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive 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.

Christ offers kingdom blessedness

Lackings: Poor in spirit; mourn for loss, hungry & thirsty,

Laments: Mourn for loss

Lifestyle: Mercy

Longings: Heaven, comfort, earth, mercy, satisfied, see God, “sons of God”

God blesses us in an amazing number of ways

God’s blessings fulfilled in “the now & the next”

Blessing expressed in character & then conduct

Christ describes the life of blessing. Notice how this is a parallel to Deuteronomy 27-28 where God offers blessedness as the result of our relationship with Him. How has God blessed you in your life with Him?

Notice how the blessedness is connected to the present living & longing which now and in full in the next – everyday & eternity!

What is surprising about these beatitudes as a foundation for living?

How do our longings & lackings find hope & help in God’s kingdom?

How do God’s promises reveal grace to us in our needs?

Which characteristics do you most desire? Struggle with?



September 20th- Hugh Barlett

Matthew 4:1–11 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written, “ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “ ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ” ⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’ ” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Christ overcomes temptation

- Kingdom living involves conflict with evil
- In the worst conditions, Christ performs His best
- Devil sows doubt about your identity in Christ
- Devil deceives us about the truth
- Devil promises what he can never deliver
- Christ relies on God’s word

How does the Christian life involve fighting against evil? In our internal life? In our world?

What are times that we are more susceptible to temptations?

How does the devil try to discourage us about our life in Christ?

How does the devil try to deceive us?

How does the devil promise us false things that he will not give us? Or promise us things that will not satisfy?

How can we stand up and overcome the power of the devil?

How does God’s word empower us?