

Be (of this) Attitude

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

1. At the very beginning of Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" in Matthew 5, we find that section of scripture commonly known as "the beatitudes."
 - A. The word "beatitude" means "supreme blessedness or happiness."
 - B. We find Jesus discussing the blessedness of those who possess certain qualities in their life.
2. As I read this section of scripture I am thinking that I am to "be of this attitude." I realize that if I am of this attitude, as Jesus describes, then I would most certainly be blessed.
3. It is as though Jesus was answering two questions people might have been asking:
 - A. Who will be the citizens of "the kingdom of heaven?"
 - B. What benefits do they receive?
4. In the lesson this morning, let's look at these beatitudes and answer these two questions as we progress.

Character Involves Inter-Related Qualities

1. There is a certain character required of the citizens of the kingdom
 - A. One will possess all of these particular “graces” or “attitudes.”
 - 1) It should be evident that some may be....
 - a. “Poor in Spirit”, but do not “hunger and thirst after righteousness.”
 - b. “Mournful”, but are not “pure in heart.”
 - c. “Persecuted” but not for “righteousness sake.”
2. These graces are inter-related....
 - A. It takes all of these qualities, working in conjunction with one another. This is similar to 2 Peter 1:5-11.
2 Peter 1:5-11
 - 1) These are needed in conjunction to one another so that “an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom.”

Benefits Summarized in ONE Word

1. The word is “blessed”

A. The first word of the sermon (v.3)

Psalms 1:1 **Blessed is the man** Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

Revelation 1:3 **Blessed is he** who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

- 1) It is used 9 out of 10 times in verses 3-12, which is why this section is called the beatitudes.
- 2) It is a word that expresses great joy and gladness as stated in 5:12 and Luke 6:23

Luke 6:23-Rejoice in that day and **leap for joy!** For indeed your reward is great in heaven,.....

Character of the Citizens and the Benefits Received

Verse 3

1. Character: “Poor in Spirit”

A. “To have a humble opinion of ourselves; to be sensible that we are sinners; to have no righteousness of our own; be willing to be saved only by the grace and mercy of God” (Barnes)

- 1) We realize that we need God’s help and rely on him.

Luke 18:13 And **the tax collector, standing afar off**, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'

B. The opposite would be “proud of heart” such as the Pharisee of Luke 18.

2. Benefit: "Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven"

A. Those who receive the kingdom are under the kingly rule of God. They are in a spiritual kingdom.

1) Today, this involves being in the church, the present manifestation of the “kingdom of heaven”

Matthew 16:19 And I will give you **the keys of the kingdom** of heaven....

Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and **conveyed us into the kingdom** of the Son of His love,

2) This will most certainly involve the “new heavens and new earth” in the kingdom’s future and eternal manifestation.

Matthew 25:34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, **inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**

B. It is interesting to note that the first (v.3) and last (v.10) beatitude includes this expression “for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

1) Just as the kingdom is both present and future, we shall observe that the blessings described involve both present and future.

Verse 4

1. Character: "Mourn"

A. In a specific sense: Over one's own spiritual poverty, one's sinfulness.

1) Like David did after his adultery with Bathsheba
Psalms 51:3-4

B. Note the relationship between these first two characteristics: Unless one is first "poor in spirit" they will not "mourn" over their spiritual poverty.

2. Benefit: "Shall be Comforted"

A. When one mourns over their sins and spiritual poverty, they are comforted:

NOW 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 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. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.

FUTURE 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. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 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. 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."

Verse 5

1. Character: "Meek"

A. Gentle, easy to be entreated; One would rather suffer injury than inflict it. Not out of weakness but rather realizing one's own poverty of spirit.

1) Moses was not a weak or timid man, but when personally attacked, he was very humble.

Numbers 12:1-3

2. Benefit: "Shall Inherit the Earth"

A In one sense, a person inherits it now as a result of putting the kingdom of God first (Matthew 6:33)

1) Though one may have less possessions than the wicked, God enables them to enjoy it more.

Ecclesiastes 5:19-6:2

B. In another sense, there is the promise to come concerning those in the kingdom now

2 Peter 3:10-13

END OF PART ONE

(Verses 6-10 next week)

