

Beatitudes – Matt 5:1-12

Begin with funny prayer:

Dear God, All I ask for in 2011 is a big, fat bank account and a slim body. Please don't mix these up like you did last year. Amen.

"Happiness is inward and not outward; and so it does not depend on what we have, but on what we are."

OT emphasized the externals, while in the NT emphasis is on the Internal aspects of the Law. The bar is raised higher in the NT.

St. Augustine says the deepest need in our life is "To find true Happiness." There is not anyone here that deep down in their heart does not desire true happiness.

Beatitudes led us to true happiness, how to attain true happiness.

Blessed = Happy or Oneness with God

To understand the Beatitudes - important to know 2 things:

A. Beatitudes describe perfectly and reflect perfectly the Image of Christ. If you want to describe Jesus to someone, you can do it by describing the Beatitudes.

- Humble, Mourned, Meek, Merciful, Clean of Heart, Peacemaker, Persecuted, Insulted
- Jesus is telling us what it is like to be Him. We want to become like Him.
- Want to be happy we need to become more like Christ.

B. Beatitudes are not a string of clever sayings. They flow into each other. They build on each other. Flow one into the other.

Beatitudes:

1. Poverty in spirit – speaks about Humility:

- Cannot have other virtues unless we have humility.
- Opposite of Humility is Pride – EGO.
- We know we cannot do all this on our own.
- We need God's help – Humility recognizes this within.
- Humility is a true self-assessment.
- Empty our self to make room for the life of Christ.

2. Once we walk in Humility – then we can mourn for the world's suffering and own sin and weakness, for out of sorrow we find the joy of God!

3. If we are Meek then we are Teachable

God makes us strong and we submit our strength to Him.

4. Hunger and Thirst for Right Standing with God

God thirsts that you might thirst for Him.

5. Our response for being right with God is to be Merciful.

- We want to reach out to people it becomes our response in our daily lives. We forgive.

6. Clean of Heart: Capacity for Truth.

We attune our intellects and wills to the demands of God's holiness.

7. Peacemakers: We become perfected sons & daughters of God and extend His peace to others.

8. Persecuted for Righteousness Sake: Opposite of reward for obedience in the OT.

- Give our children reward for being obedient – cookies
- God wants us to want Him – not the rewards

Interior Focus of the Heart to be Him and Love for His Father.

When we pray for the qualities of the beatitudes, God give us the Opportunity to live the Christian Life:

Christ still needs His witnesses to live for Him.

Lord I Love You

What is the Opportunity you have given me Today?

Praise be Jesus Christ, Now and Forever, Amen.

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