

Sermon on the Mount #14

“Revisiting the Beatitudes as a Growing Lifestyle!”

I. Beatitudes: Brief Definitions (Mt. 5:3–12)

A. True spiritual reality is defined by the 8 beatitudes. This is the character of Jesus, true christlikeness! These describe the heart attitude that pleases God and what Jesus has in mind for creation and will duplicate in the nations through His ministry as King.

B. Implied in all of God’s commands is the promise of “enabling grace” to walk out the command. Thus, all eight beatitudes are a part of our inheritance. God will bless the pursuit and progressive attainment of these 8 expressions of grace in the heart.

C. *Being poor in spirit* (theirs is the kingdom of heaven, Mt. 5:3) – to acknowledge that we are in great need of help (imparted grace) to sustain wholeheartedness. This is to understand, that we are in a serious dilemma in needing a breakthrough (insight/power) in our heart for godliness.

D. *Mourning for breakthrough* (for they shall be comforted, Mt. 5:4) – to be desperate enough to be “extreme” in pursuit of a progressive breakthrough (insight/power) in our own heart and in the world around us.

E. *Walking in meekness* (shall inherit the earth, Mt. 5:5) – to walk in the fasted lifestyle or to have a servant spirit in the use of our natural strengths (time, money, energy, reputation, authority, etc.). Humility or meekness speaks of using our resources with a servant spirit, as we lay down personal rights in serving without regard for receiving the reward (honor, money) from people.

F. *Hungering for righteousness* (for they shall be filled, Mt. 5:6) – sustained faithfulness in seeking God with wholeheartedness through changing circumstances and seasons of our life.

G. *Relating to others with mercy* (for they shall obtain mercy, Mt. 5:7) – having a tender spirit in how we treat others in light of receiving God’s mercy in our many failures (Ps. 18:35; 130:3-4).

H. *Being pure in heart* (they shall see God, Mt. 5:8) – breakthrough of purity in our thoughts (bitterness, immorality) and motives (helping people for their benefit without any personal gain).

I. *Becoming an anointed peacemaker* (called sons of God, Mt. 5:9) – anointing to bring peace (reconciliation) to that which is out of God’s will (restoring relationships, bodies, legislation).

J. *Enduring persecution* (theirs is the kingdom, Mt. 5:10-12) – bearing the counterattack for plundering Satan’s Kingdom because we operate in the power of grace and stand for righteousness.

K. In Mt. 5:3-5, we begin the process of transformation as the first three beatitudes (poverty of spirit, mourning and meekness) relate to “perceiving ourselves” differently. Mt. 5:6 points to “sustained zeal” as we break through in mercy (Mt. 5-7), purity (Mt. 5:8), anointed service (Mt. 5:9) that brings persecution that requires endurance (Mt. 5:10-12).

L. The way to awaken a sense of being poor in spirit and desperately mourning for a breakthrough is to set our heart to walk out the Sermon on the Mount lifestyle in a literal and consistent way, especially in determining to be perfect (Mt. 5:48) or have a good or single eye (Mt. 6:22-23), and to seek the kingdom breakthrough in us first (Mt.6:33).

II. Beatitudes: Brief Descriptions within a Growing Lifestyle!

A. Being poor in spirit - theirs is the kingdom of heaven! Mt. 5:3

1. Children and Beggars!

Matthew 18:3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

2. Persistent and Grateful Receivers!

Matthew 13:19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

B. Mourning for breakthrough - for they shall be comforted! Mt. 5:4

1. Brokenness over our inability to attain while reaching for more grace in our own life!

Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart — These, O God, You will not despise.

Isaiah 57:15 For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

2. Brokenness over conditions in God's people and in the world around us.

Ezekiel 9:4 and the Lord said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it."

Ezekiel 22:30 So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

C. Walking in meekness – they shall inherit the earth! Mt. 5:5

1. Jesus and the Holy Spirit our Example in Meekness!

Matthew 11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

John 5:30 I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

John 16:13-14 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

2. Walking out our lives in Meekness!

James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

D. Hungering for righteousness - for they shall be filled! Mt. 5:6

1. Setting ourselves to seek the righteousness described by Jesus as this "Sermon on the Mount Lifestyle!" Pursuing the righteousness that results in a sustained faithfulness in wholeheartedness with the ongoing breakthroughs that accompany that focus and pursuit!

2. We are living our lives before and for Him! As we adopt His goals for us and seek to live them out as an expression of love to Him and for His pleasure, we present a righteousness to the world that far exceeds any religious behavior that is seeking to impress the world!

Matthew 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

E. Relating to others with mercy - for they shall obtain mercy! Mt. 5:7

1. The Father has treated us with extreme kindness in His mercy, we are His adopted children that He has fully received as His very own!

Luke 6:36-38 Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. 37 "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

F. Being pure in heart - they shall see God! Mt. 5:8

1. Going for the fullness of transformation in our inner man where our thoughts and intents of the heart (motives) are brought in all sincerity into the light of His Holiness. Seeing that every circumstance that reveals an element of corruption in us is an invitation from our Father to become like Him in that place.

Hebrews 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

G. Becoming an anointed peacemaker - called sons of God! Mt. 5:9

1. Becoming such a partaker of His Shalom that we flow in a ministry of reconciliation as anointed to bring the kingdom into situations that are out of alignment with heaven. Anointed to bring peace (reconciliation) to that which is out of God's will (restoring relationships, bodies, governments).

Titus 2:14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

H. Enduring persecution - theirs is the kingdom! Mt. 5:10-12

1. Knowing that Jesus has promised us that if we dare to live a life focused on the Father as He did that the world will hate us for it. In the forceful advancement of the kingdom we must be willing to bear the counterattack for plundering Satan's kingdom because we operate in the power of grace and stand for righteousness.

John 15:18-19 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.