

THE BEATITUDES

Matthew 5:1-10

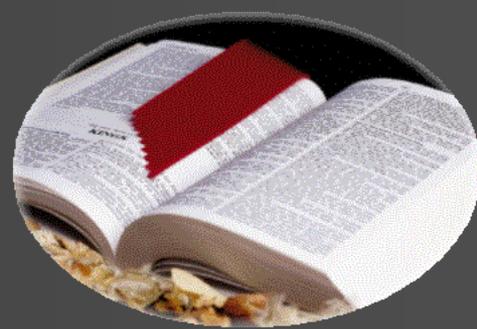
Introduction

- Greatest sermon ever preached... The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)
 - Beatitudes: Comes from “Blessed” and refers to the eight times in the text that one (a group) is identified as blessed.
 - Blessed: lit. “happy”. Refers to a “fortunate state” as defined by Christ
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“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

- Not referring to despondent or cowardly. Rather refers to those who are humble.
- Not like the cowardly spies in Israel. “We are not able to go up against the people” (Num. 13:31)
- Not like the one talent man. “And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground.” (Matt. 25:25)
- Rather, Humble (Matt. 18:2-4)

MATTHEW 18:2-4

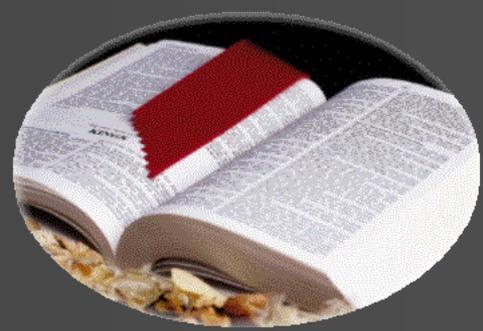


“Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 3 and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.’”

“Blessed are those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.”

- Not saying that everyone who mourns will be comforted. Not all mourning leads to comfort.
- Not like King Ahab who wept because Naboth would not sell to him his family heritage. (cf. 1 Kings 21:4)
- Not like Judas who wept after selling his Lord for 30 pieces of silver (cf. Matt. 27:3-5)
- It is the one who exhibits Godly sorrow (cf. 2 Corinthians 7:9-10)

2 CORINTHIANS 7:9-10

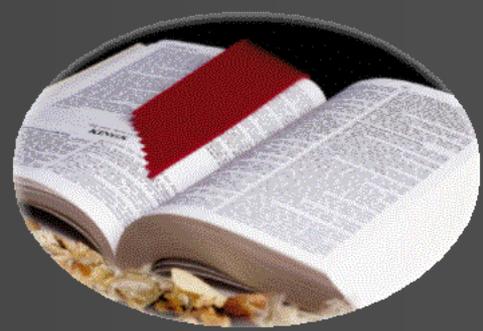


“Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; **but the sorrow of the world produces death.**”

“Blessed are the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.”

- Does not refer to cowardice or weakness.
- Definition: Meekness is the opposite of self-awareness... it is not occupied with self.)
- Meekness is a willingness to take wrong patiently (cf. 1 Peter 2:19-20)

1 PETER 2:19-20

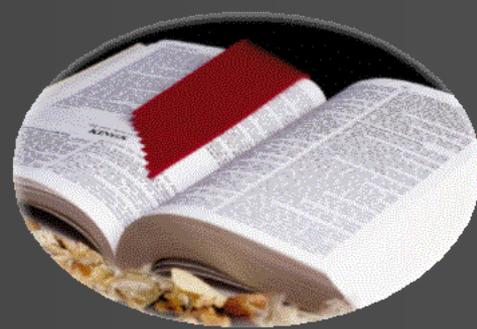


“For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. {20} For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.”

“Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.”

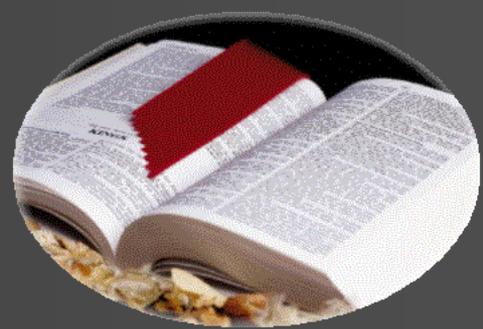
- Does not refer to cowardice or weakness.
- Definition: Meekness is the opposite of self-awareness... it is not occupied with self.)
- Meekness is a willingness to take wrong patiently (cf. 1 Peter 2:19-20)
- Meekness is gentleness in dealing with others (cf. 1 Corinthians 4:21; 1 Peter 3:15)

1 CORINTHIANS 4:21



“What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?”

1 PETER 3:15

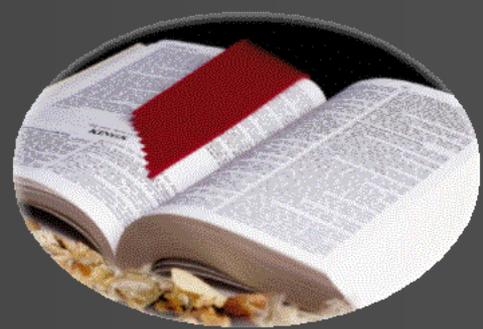


“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense **to everyone who asks you** a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”

“Blessed are those who
hunger and thirst for righteousness,
For they shall be filled.”

- As babes in Christ, we are to “desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious” (1 Peter 2:2-3)
- Milk is not enough: “But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Heb. 5:14).
- We are filled in Christ (John 6:32-35)

JOHN 6:32-35

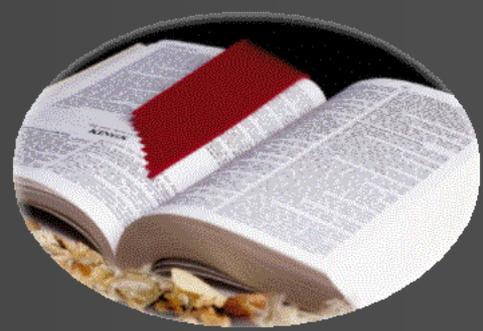


“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. {33} For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ {34} Then they said to Him, ‘Lord, give us this bread always.’ {35} And Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.’”

“Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.”

- Definition: “An outward manifestation of pity, sympathy and compassion.”
- Imitate God: “I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more” (Hebrews 8:12)
- If we are merciful to others, we too will obtain mercy from God (Matthew 6:14-15)

MATTHEW 6:14-15

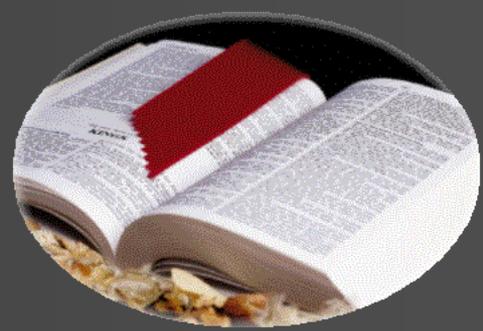


“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. {15} But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

“Blessed are the pure in heart,
For they shall see God.”

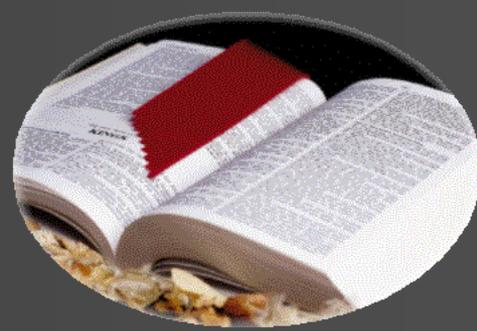
- Men have always desired to see God. Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us” (John 14:8).
- Control the heart, and you control the man. “So God, who knows the heart,... made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith” (Acts 15:8-9).
- James 4:8; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Proverbs 4:23

JAMES 4:8



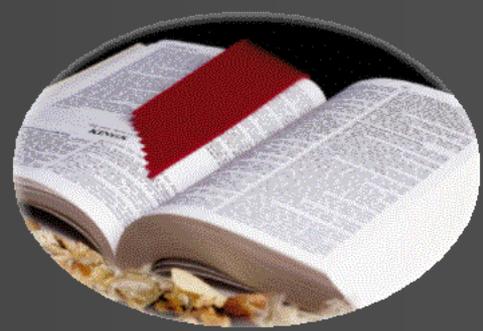
“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; **and purify your hearts**, you double-minded.”

2 CORINTHIANS 7:1



“Therefore, having these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves** from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

PROVERBS 4:23

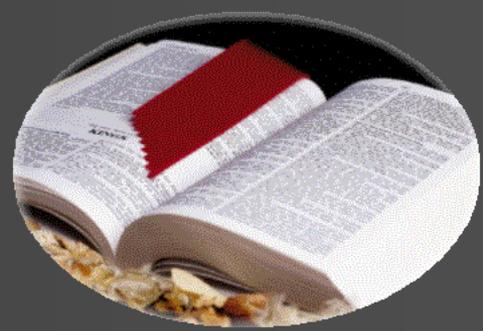


“Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.”

“Blessed are the peacemakers,
For they shall be called sons of God.”

- Disciples should emulate their Lord who was called “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6)
- Of course, we do not speak of a compromising peace. “Saying, ‘Peace, peace!’, When there is no peace” (Jer. 6:14)
- However, whenever possible, as the sons of God, we must be at peace with all men (Romans 12:18; 14:19)

ROMANS 12:18; 14:19



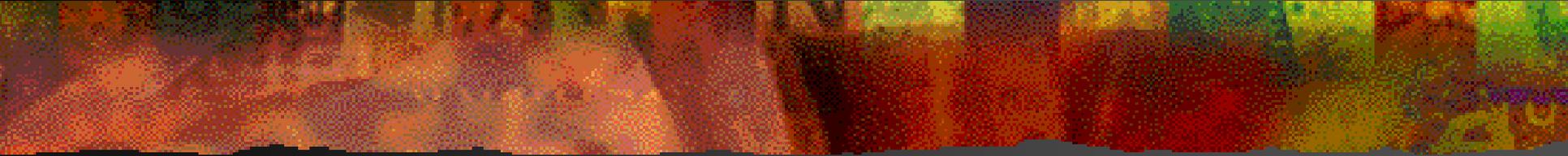
(12:18), “If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”

(14:19), “Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.”

“Blessed are those who are
persecuted for righteousness sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

- No blessing on those who suffer because they have done wrong, “But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters” (1 Peter 4:15).
- Persecution for Christ is laudable, “Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter” (1 Peter 4:16).
- Persecution will happen!
(Acts 14:21-22; 2 Tim. 3:12)

vs. 10



CONCLUSION

Man's idea of happiness, and that of God's do not often coincide.

“Blessed” (happy, fortunate) is the man who serves God.