

The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:5-6



Objective

The most important assessment that we can do as Christians is the honest evaluation of our relationship with God.

Our focus has to remain on what's truly important in life, and that is pleasing God and serving Him.

Objective

The Beatitudes describe the attributes of the citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven.

They reflect the central theme of the Bible
→ **God wants for Himself a people.**

Objective

1 Peter 2:9-10 “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God...”

Objective

First, we should possess
all these qualities.

Second, these are
qualities that are chosen.

Objective



Personal Growth

Background

The land of Judea was filled with many problems:

- Occupied by tyrannical military government
- Rulers with absolute authority
- Various persecutions
- High taxes
- Racial prejudice
- Slavery

Background

Jesus came preaching a different message, one of repentance (**Matt 4:17**)

“Blessed are...”

- Human happiness is something dependent on chance and the changes of life.
- Jesus describes a joy that is self-contained and untouchable, independent of chance or change.
- To be blessed is to be approved by God.

Odditudes

- Sometimes called “odditudes” because they are at odds with what the world believes and teaches.
- Most are paradoxical (they appear to be contradictory).

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

- Foundation upon which the other Beatitudes are built.
- It's the understanding that we are nothing before God.

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

- Specifically in regard to one's own sinfulness.
- Relationship between the Beatitudes

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

- What is meekness?
- What does Jesus mean when He says, “they shall inherit the earth”?
- What are barriers to our being meek as described by this Beatitude?

Common Misunderstandings

- It has the connotation of weakness
- Spineless, easily run over, or passive
- Not someone who is strong or courageous

Examples of Meekness

- Jesus
 - Submissive to the Father
- Moses
 - Not meek by nature
 - Not weak
- Apostles
 - Peter
 - James and John
 - Paul

Definition of Meekness

- Greek – *praus*, gentle
- Strength under control
- Meekness towards God – submission to Him
- Meekness towards man

Meekness towards man

“...to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, ² to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men”

Titus 3:1-2

Meekness towards man

The individual who is meek “feels anger on the right grounds, against the right persons, in the right manner, at the right moment, and for the right length of time.”

Meekness towards man

“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness...”

Galatians 6:1

“they shall inherit the earth”

- **Psalm 37:11** “But the meek shall inherit the earth,
And shall delight themselves in the abundance of
peace.”
- Earthly blessings
 - True satisfaction and contentment (Philippians 4:11)
 - Peace of mind (Matthew 6:33)
 - Love, help, and friendship (Mark 10:28-30)
- Heavenly blessings
 - Promise of better things - eternal life, home in Heaven

Barriers to Meekness

- Love of this world
- Love of self
- Possessions
- Lack of contentment
- Pride (stubbornness)
- Family
- Loss of focus
- Lack of faith

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

- What does it mean to “hunger and thirst”?
- What is “righteousness”?
- What does it mean by “they shall be filled”?

What does it mean to hunger and thirst?

- It's a sign of life
- A good appetite is a sign of a normal, healthy life

Hebrews 5:12-14

“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need **milk and not solid food**. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 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.”

Psalm 42:1

“As the deer pants for the
water brooks, So pants my
soul for You, O God.”

What does it mean to hunger and thirst?

- Communicates a strong desire
 - A matter of life and death

Do we long for righteousness as a starving man desires food and as a man dying of thirst desires water?

Standards of Righteousness in Christ's Day

- Religious life centered around the temple and synagogue.
- Faithfulness was measured by outward actions
- Jesus describing the Scribes and the Pharisees said in **Matthew 23:5** “But all their works they do to be seen by men.”

Meaning of Righteousness

- Greek – *dikaiosune*, the condition acceptable to God
- “There is none righteous, no, not one” (**Rom 3:9-10**)... that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (**Rom 3:23**).
- Righteousness is the desire for the justification that the gospel offers to sinners. And in order to receive it one must possess the inward qualification of desiring it.

Source - Christ

“I am the bread of life... I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever...”

John 6:48-51

“they shall be filled”

The promise of a
complete satisfaction of
spiritual hunger and thirst.

“they shall be filled”

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”

Matt 7:7-11

Application

- We determine the extent of our spiritual interests.
- Describes the uncompromising nature of the Christian life.
- The signs of seeking righteousness should be evident.