

# The Beatitudes

## Lesson 1: Introduction

### Setting

- Jesus's Location:
    - Jesus had attracted a large crowd.
    - He withdraws from them by going up a hillside (this is why this sermon is identified as the Sermon on the Mount).
    - This Sermon begins with Jesus speaking to His disciples.
    - By the conclusion of this sermon, the multitudes have joined them on the hillside to hear His teaching.
  - Stage of Jesus' career:
    - Beginning of His career.
    - He had been:
      - Baptized
      - Tempted in the wilderness
      - Selected his first disciples
      - Taught many lessons
      - Worked a number of miracles
    - He has caused some interest and was beginning to attract multitudes of people.
  - Theme of Jesus' teaching at this stage of His career:
    - His predecessor John had been teaching, "repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand".
    - Jesus Himself had been teaching, "repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand".
    - In this stage of Jesus' career, the theme of His teaching is "repent". Later Jesus will speak more about the kingdom.
  - Theme of the Sermon on the Mount:
    - The Sermon on the Mt. is often summarized as "kingdom righteousness".
      - The kind of righteousness that is necessary to enter the kingdom.
      - The kind of righteousness that citizens of the kingdom continue to conduct themselves in.
      - This sermon about kingdom righteousness opens with the poem now referred to as The Beatitudes.
- Mat 5:1-2: *When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying.*

Mat 7:28-29: *When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes*
- Mat 4:23-25: *Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. The news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them. Large crowds followed*
- Mat 3:2: *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,*

Mat 4:17: *From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

# The Poem

- Here is the we refer to as the Beatitudes:

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.  
Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.  
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.  
Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you (Mat 5:3-12).*

- The pattern:
  - Like many poems, this one has a pattern.
  - There are three components to the pattern:
    1. The benediction (Blessed are...)
    2. The attribute (...the poor in spirit...)
    3. The result (...for theirs is the kingdom of God...)

Benediction: *utterance or bestowal of blessing. State of blessedness.*

## Explanation of Each Component in the Pattern

2. Benediction (Blessed are...)
  - Blessed: happy, to be envied, well off, fortunate, advantaged, “good for you”
  - This is NOT saying that God will bless us if we have the following attribute.
  - The attribute itself is the blessing.
  - Difference between reward and consequence:
    - Reward: someone intervenes to give a blessing because of something you’ve done.
    - Consequence: the natural beneficial result of your actions apart from any intervention.
    - EX: A diet. It’s not that if you diet, the gods will reward you with a blessing of a girlfriend. It’s that the diet itself has beneficial consequences, such as greater physical appeal due to loss of weight, which can lead to other blessings, such as acquiring a girlfriend.
  - This is not good behavior to get a blessing from God; God has designed the good behavior to *be* the blessing because of its naturally beneficial consequences.

II Pet 1:4: *so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust*

3. Attribute (...the poor in spirit...)
  - The attribute that is the blessing.
  - These attributes do not come naturally.
    - Natural behavior:

- Our natural inclination is so satisfy own flesh instantly.
- This behavior leads to many bad consequences.
- The Beatitudes:
  - These attributes revolve around submission to God, deference to the welfare of others, and sacrifice of self.
  - For that reason...
    - None of the attributes listed in the beatitudes come naturally.
    - Many are contrary to our inclinations.
    - Others even seem to be very disadvantageous or even harmful.
    - For that reason, these attributes do not come naturally. No one accidentally conforms to these attributes.
- These attributes come by conviction and deliberate practice.
  - First we need to desire to have this attribute.
  - The attribute then demands us to adopt a new mindset or attitude so fundamental, that they change our very disposition, and transform our behavior.
  - These attributes are not a modification of behavior. They are an internal transformation of our very nature.
  - These attributes are blessings because they are transformations.
- These are the attributes God wants us to be.

*\* That's why the BE-attitudes*

- These attributes are the list of what behaviors will make us pleasing to God.
  - EX: Basketball scout. Blessed are the tall for they will get more rebounds. Blessed are those who have good shot percentages, for they will win more games.
  - We might wonder if God is happy with us. The Beatitudes can serve to be a check list of self evaluation.
  - These attributes are the qualities of kingdom citizens.
    - God is bringing His kingdom, and He determines who will be in it.
    - Here He lists the proper conduct of His own citizens.
    - If we want to enter into His kingdom, if we want to remain a part of His kingdom, we need to adopt these attributes as our own.
  - These attributes are journeys, not accomplishments.
    - None of these attributes are things that can be attained once for all at any point.
    - They are not “yes or no”, but rather “how much?”.
    - We will constantly be seeking to excel and increase in these attributes. We will constantly have to defend from regression.
4. Result (...for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.)
- The result of the attribute is its inherent beneficial spiritual consequence.
  - The results are spiritual blessings.
    - They are not going to reap a reward of physical nature such as wealth, fame, power.
    - They will reap rewards of a spiritual nature relating to hope, joy, peace, and fulfillment.
    - Even though they are spiritual benefits, they still have great spiritual reward in this life. In fact, most of these attributes reap reward in this life.

- Spiritual benefits in this life:
  - They shall be comforted.
  - They shall be satisfied.
  - They shall be called sons of God.
  - They shall receive mercy.
  - They shall be called sons of God
- Spiritual benefits to be enjoyed in the future:
  - They shall inherit the earth.
  - They shall see God.
  - Your reward in heaven is great.
- Spiritual benefits that help us enter the kingdom now, so we can be in the kingdom in the future.
  - Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
  - Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

## Conclusion

Let's consider each of these attributes and learn more about who God wants us to be.

# The Beatitudes

## Lesson 2: Blessed Are the Poor In Spirit

### Definition of Terms:

- Poor: ptóchos: pto-khos
  - Destitute, **lacking**, in need, having want.
  - Usually used in connection to lacking money and physical necessities.
- Spirit: pneuma: uma
  - Wind, breath, spirit.
  - Can be used to describe literal air or wind, or to describe a person's spirit, or God's spirit.
- Poor of what spirit?
  - Here we have the image of someone lacking spirit.
  - What spirit?
    - God's Spirit? No. We are told to be full of His Spirit.
    - Our own spirit. We need to be lacking, that

Eph 5:18: *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.*

is, empty of our own spirit.

- We need to be deficient of our own spirit.

## Full of Yourself

- What does it mean to be full of your own spirit?
  - If pneuma = wind, imagine someone full of wind/air.
    - EX: A blow fish.
  - The best term for this is “being full of yourself”.
  - It’s the image of someone being filled up with their own sense of self-importance.
    - EX: School spirit. “We’re the best”.
    - EX: Pro-wrestler. “I’m the best”.
    - EX: Act like a gorilla. Enlarge self, beat on chest to flaunt, and push to get your own way.
- What is being full of yourself?
  - Self dependent:
    - Can do anything. Can do it better than others.
    - Don’t need help.
  - Self-important:
    - Because they think they can do anything better, this makes them more important than other people.
    - They feel more important because they are more valuable/ bigger/ better than others.
    - They will look down on others as being less valuable.
  - Self-focused:
    - Because they think they are better than other people, then life becomes all about them.
    - They make all decisions based on what they want.
    - They assume others should be focusing on their interest as well.
  - Self-seeking:
    - Since the world is all about them, they selfishly seek their own desires.
    - All their time, energyrrgn, efforts and resources are to attain what they want.
    - They expect others to comply with what they want as well.
- Examples of what people who are full of themselves do:
  - First in line.
  - During a traffic jam, drive on the outside and then cut in at the last merge point to skip waiting.
  - Criticize, make fun, talk badly about others.
  - Talk about themselves often.
  - Be bossy.
  - Expect favors from others frequently.
  - Get angry quickly.
  - Be offended often.
  - Blame others.
  - Hold grudges.
  - Brag.

- Have a difficult time admitting guilt or saying sorry.
- Just about any and everything ugly.
- EX: Guys who threw can into my car.
- Why it is bad to be full of yourself:
  1. You will be sinning all the time
    - Being full of your self means that you will be living your life in selfishness.
    - Selfishness is the root of every sin.
      - Covetousness: you deserve it.
      - Impatience: others are servants beneath you, and they aren't serving well.
      - Sexual immorality: use others and take to satisfy your desires.
      - Etc...
  2. You won't depend on God for salvation
    - You think you are so great that you can live life by yourself without God.
    - That means you will NEVER BE SAVED:
      - If you don't need help...
      - If you don't do anything wrong...
      - If you're not guilty...
      - You will never admit that your wrong...
      - Depend on God to help you...
      - Ask for forgiveness...
      - And repent...
      - and Be saved.
      - EX: Naaman was too proud to wash in the Jordan river.
    - Or if you are a Christian, you will not be an obedient one.
      - EX: Diotrephes

III Jn:9-10: *I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, he himself does not receive the brethren, either, and he forbids those who desire to do so and puts them out of the church.*

## What is Being Poor in Spirit?

- Empty of self
  - Rather than being full of your own spirit, you are empty of self.
  - This leaves you free to fill your self with God's Spirit and the needs of others.
  - Don't think too highly of self, don't think about self often, acknowledges own weaknesses, and is concerned about the needs of others.
- What are the poor in spirit like?
  - Rather than self-dependent, humble:
    - Realize you can't do everything.
    - Acknowledge weakness.
    - Admit faults.
    - Desire to improve.
    - Seek help to improve.
  - Rather than self-important, modest:
    - Don't overvalue self worth.
    - Acknowledge abilities, but keeps them in proper perspective.
    - Not better or worse than anyone.
  - Rather than self-focused, considerate:

- Not always thinking of self.
- Mindful of the wants and needs of others.
- Other people's needs come first.
- Rather than self-seeking, selfless:
  - Live life, not for own interests, but for others.
  - Serve, give, help, sacrifice.
- Examples of what the poor in spirit do
  - Offer to do favors for others.
  - Do things for others without drawing attention to self.
  - Readily willing to admit mistakes.
  - Allowing others to get their way.

## The Result: Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven

- Why is it good to be poor in spirit?
  1. This attitude is essential to every command
    - If you are poor in spirit, you have the mind and heart ready to obey God's commands.
    - Phi 2:3-4: *make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. **Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.***
    - Rom 12:3: *For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you **not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think;** but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.*
    - Rom 12:10: *Be **devoted to one another** in brotherly love; **give preference to one another** in honor.*
    - Rom 12:13: ***contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.***
    - Rom 12:14-21: ***Bless those who persecute** you; bless and do not curse. **Rejoice with those who rejoice,** and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another; **do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. Never pay back evil** for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. **Never take your own revenge,** beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*
  2. You will depend on God for salvation
    - The poor in spirit are ready to admit that they are wrong.
    - They are ready to admit they need help.
    - They are ready to trust in God completely to receive their salvation
- If we are not poor in spirit, we will not enter into the kingdom of God.
  - We have to behave like kingdom citizens. Poor in spirit is the attitude that will lead us to that conduct.
  - We have to submit to God as king. Poor in spirit is the attitude that will lead us to do so.
  - Without being poor in spirit we will never enter into the kingdom. Even if we are in a church, we won't be behaving like true citizens of the kingdom.

- The kingdom belongs to people who are poor in spirit
  - This attitude is so essential and critical for kingdom citizenship, that it is said to belong to people who have this attitude.
  - Jesus says this multiple times:
    - Mat 18:3: *and said, "Truly I say to you, **unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.***
    - Mat 19:14: *But Jesus said, " Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; **for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.***
    - Mat 19:30: *But many who are first will be last; and **the last, first.***
    - Mat 20:16: *So the **last shall be first, and the first last.***
    - Mat 20:26-28: *It is not this way among you, but **whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.***

## Conclusion

- God wants us to be humble, dependent on Him, and more concerned about helping others than ourselves.

# The Beatitudes

## Lesson 3: Blessed are Those Who Mourn

### Definition of Terms

- Mourn: pentheó: pen-theh-o:
  - Mourn, lament, feel guilt
  - Esp after loss or death
  - Not necessarily the emotion, but rather the ceremonial process.
  - Rejoice is to happiness as mourn is to sadness.

### Why Mourn?

- It's a blessing to mourn
  - We typically think of mourning as being undesirable. We don't like being sad.
  - But there are certain things worth mourning.
  - It is appropriate and good to mourn those

Gen 37:34: *So Jacob tore his clothes, and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days.*

Job 1:20: *Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and worshiped.*



things.

- There are tragedies in the world that cause us to mourn.
  - Death
  - Disasters
  - Violence
  - War

Gen 50:2-4: *Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father [Jacob] ... and the Egyptians wept for him seventy days. When the days of mourning for him were*

- We mourn if those things happen to us
  - You care deeply about what has happened. You don't choose to mourn. It's what you end up doing naturally because of tragedy.
  - You can choose to mourn deliberately to cope with such tragedies.
  - Mourning shows that you care.

II Sam 2:16: *David therefore inquired of God for the child; and David fasted and went and lay all night on the ground.*

II Sam 2:20: *So David arose from the ground, washed, anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he came into the house of the Lord and worshiped. Then he came to his own house, and when he requested, they set food before him and he ate,*

- We mourn with others if those things happen to other people.
  - You mourn the tragedies of others because it shows them that you care.

II Sam 2:22-23: *He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who knows, the Lord may be gracious to me, that the child may live.' But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again?"*

- EX: My best friend's dad dies, but I just want to play video games.
- EX: Again, the Egyptians mourned with Joseph about his father Jacob. They wouldn't personally care about Jacob's death, but they do care about Joseph's grief.

Rom 12:15: *Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.*

- Why does mourning show that you care?
  - You adopt that person's grief as your own.
  - You can't be happy if they are sad.
  - You are sad because they are sad. As much as you care about their condition is as much as you care about them.
  - You can't truly relate to their pain, but mourning with them shows that you desire to.
  - EX: Job's friends

- Job 2:11-13: *Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, they came each one from his own place ... and they made an appointment together to come to sympathize with him and comfort him. When they lifted up their eyes at a distance and did not recognize him, they raised their voices and wept. And each of them tore his robe and they threw dust over their heads toward the sky. Then they sat down on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights with no one speaking a word to him, for they saw that his pain was very great.*

- We mourn because the mourning process brings comfort
  - Deliberately dealing with our suffering by mourning (worshipping) helps us receive comfort.
  - **Mourning with others provides comfort.**

# We Should Mourn About?

- Besides tragedies, we need to mourn about sin.

## Mourn the sins of the world

- God mourns about sin in the world.
  - Gen 6:5-6: *Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.*
- The point of mourning is to show the person that you care about them.
  - If we mourn over tragedies with others to show them that we care...
  - We need to mourn with God over the tragedy of sin to show that we care.
- Often times we celebrate sin in the world.
  - Rather than being sad about sin like God, we enjoy and celebrate sin.
    - EX: fight at school.
    - Media:
      - We spend time time being entertained by sin.
      - We spend money being entertained by sin.
    - We are intrigued by sinful things
      - Talk shows, news
      - EX: my kids talking about gangs
    - We casually talk about sinful things
      - Inappropriate conversations
      - Crude jokes
  - When we don't respond to sin with mourning, it shows we don't care about God.
    - I Cor 5:2: *You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.*
    - How was their apathy considered arrogant?
      - EX: Friend comes to house and spills grape soda. You don't do anything, and say that your mom will deal with it because it's her house.
      - Because they didn't care about sin, it shows that they didn't care about God.
  - Let's not celebrate sin in the world.
    - Let's not choose to be entertained by sin.
    - Let's not become comfortable with sinful things around us.
- We need to mourn about sin in the world.
  - If God grieves over sin, then if we care about Him, we will grieve over sin as well.
    - II Pet 2:8: *for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds.*
    - II Cor 11:28-29: *Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches. Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern.*
    - II Cor 12:21: *I am afraid that when I come again my God may humiliate me before you, and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and not repented of the impurity, immorality and sensuality which they have practiced.*
  - Caring about the things God cares about is the way we care about God Himself.
    - Let's make sure we don't support sin in anyway.
    - Pray about tragedies that are happening around us.

- Weep with those who weep.
  - Pray about repentance.
- When God looks at the world and all of its evil, be someone that sees it the same way He does.
    - That will be pleasing to God.
    - That will provide some amount of comfort to Him.

### **Mourn about our own sin**

- This is the most important thing we need to mourn about. This is what Jesus is really talking about.
- Previously...
  - We've talked about mourning is to show others that we care.
  - Now we're going to talking about how mourning is to make *us* care.
- Previously...
  - We've talked about how we mourn to provide others comfort.
  - Now we're going to talk about how mourning provides *us* comfort.
- Situation:
  - You sinned, asked for forgiveness and committed to repent. The next days, you're still feeling very guilty. You don't feel like you're really forgiven. If you asked for forgiveness you should be completely forgiven, so why do you feel so guilty? Is it because you don't believe God wants to forgive? Or is it because you aren't convinced you've really repented?
- My situation:
  - Sometimes I would feel extremely bad, and really care, and really repent well for a while.
  - Then other times, I wouldn't care much at all. I would sin, ask for forgiveness, promise to repent, then watch a movie and eat ice cream.
  - That repentance was ineffective to provide a clean conscience or produce genuine obedience.
  - I realized that my repentance would be better when I genuinely hurt because of my sin.
  - Why would I really hurt about about my sin sometimes, but not other times?
- Mourning our sin leads to genuine repentance.
  - We don't really hurt about our sin because we don't properly understand our sin.
  - If we don't properly understand our sin, then we won't be motivated to repent.
  - Mourning sin is the process that helps us see our sin accurately to produce a genuine desire to repent.
  - II Cor 7:8-10: *For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it — for I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while— I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us. For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.*
    - The letter was convicting them of sin.
    - This gave them godly sorrow.

- Literally “sorrow according to God”
  - Your sorrow corresponds to God’s.
  - Same things, same intensity.
- This godly sorrow came when Paul helped them better understand their sin from God’s perspective.
- After sin, we need to go through a mourning process to help us properly understand that sin.
- The mourning process.
  - We need to read, pray, and fast because of our sin until we see have godly sorrow.
  - Joel:
    - 1:5: **Awake, drunkards, and weep; and wail**, all you wine drinkers, on account of the sweet wine that is cut off from your mouth.
    - 1:8: **Wail** like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the bridegroom of her youth.
    - 1:13-14: *Gird yourselves with sackcloth and **lament**, O priests; **wail**, O ministers of the altar! Come, **spend the night in sackcloth** ministers of my God, for the grain offering and the drink offering are withheld from the house of your God. **Consecrate a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly**; gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the house of the Lord your God, and **cry out to the Lord**.*
    - 2:12-13: *“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “Return to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping and mourning; and **rend your heart and not your garments**.” Now return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness and relenting of evil.*
    - 2:15-17: *Blow a trumpet in Zion, **consecrate a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly**, gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and the nursing infants. Let the bridegroom come out of his room and the bride out of her bridal chamber. Let the priests, the Lord’s ministers, **weep between the porch and the altar**, and let them say, “Spare Your people, O Lord, and do not make Your inheritance a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they among the peoples say, ‘Where is their God?’.*
  - Hosea 10:12: *Sow with a view to righteousness, reap in accordance with kindness; **break up your fallow ground**, for it is time to seek the Lord until He comes to rain righteousness on you.*
  - James:
    - 4:6: *But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*
    - 4:9-10: *Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.*
  - Going through this mourning process makes us confront our sin from God’s perspective. After enough time in reading and prayer, we will truly come to understand our sin. This will sincerely break our hearts, and lead us to a true and genuine repentance.

## Result: They Shall Be Comforted

- We have seen that we can mourn to comfort others; however, the blessing of mourning our own sin is what provides *us* comfort. How so?
- Mourning sin provides comfort in place of guilt.
- The world’s response to guilt:
  - Ignore it.
  - Justify it.

- It's not really wrong.
  - Everyone is doing it.
  - You can't help it.
  - It's natural and normal.
  - Love yourself exactly as you are with empty words, rather than acknowledge need to improve.
  - None of these responses provide comfort for guilt, because they don't address or solve anything.
- Mourning sin provides comfort
1. Genuine repentance provides a clean conscience.
    - Mourning our sin makes us really want to repent.
    - A true and genuine repentance helps us believe that God really has forgiven us.
    - It helps us believe that God had fellowship with us.
    - If we haven't really repented, we know that we are still planning to walk in darkness. Thus we doubt God's forgiveness, and still feel guilty.
    - But we know that if we do confess our sin and repent, He will cleanse us. Thus, a genuine repentance provides us with comfort that comes from being made innocent.
  2. Understanding the cross provides comfort
    - When we do wrong, we feel better when we know there is some sense of justice.
      - EX: You break something. You feel better when you pay to fix it. The damage has been reversed. The justice paid to bring fairness.
      - EX: Little children feel better after being spanked.
    - God has given us a strong sense of justice. What is the justice for our sin? The cross.
    - Mourning our sin makes us focus on the price paid to bring justice for sin.
      - Tit 2:11: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age.
      - The cross disciplines and punishes us for our sin.
      - We don't suffer the justice personally, but by mourning, we focus on Christ who did.
      - That convinces us that God *really* wants to forgive us.
      - That convinces that there really is something grand enough (the death of God's son) to bring justice for any crime we commit.
    - Mourning at the cross convinces us that there is justice paid to make us innocent.
    - That absolute innocence provides true comfort.

1 Jn 1:6: *If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.*

1 Jn 1:9: *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

1 Jn 1:7: *if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

## Conclusion

- God wants us to be people who are like Him; therefore we need to have the same attitude towards sin that He does:

- Sorrow of sin in the world
- Sorry of own sin, and absolute desire to be holy.

# The Beatitudes

## Lesson 4: Blessed are the Meek

### Definition of Terms

- Prus: pra-ooce
  - Mild (disposition): not easily provoked.
  - Gentle (behavior): kind, tender, soft.
  - Meek (attitude): easily imposed on, submissive, does what is told.
- EX: Horses
  - A wild stallion
    - Runs free.
    - Rejects being ruled.
    - Uses all power to fight against being in submission to someone else
    - Wild stallion = not meek = rebellious.
  - A domesticated horse
    - Submits to master.
    - Under control, obedient, and calm.
    - Uses all his strength to accomplish the will of his master.
- Rebellious = all your power used for your own will.
- Meek = power under control for the purpose of serving.

### Meekness Mistaken for Weakness

- People often think that being meek = being weak.
- Assumptions about meekness:
  - Mild: you don't stick up for self and fight back because you are a scared wimp and have no power to defend self.
  - Gentle: you aren't commanding because you don't have the power or stomach to put people in their place.
  - Meek: you do what others tell you because you're too weak and scared to make your own way.
- We are not a society that values meekness

- No one wants to do what they're told. Being told what to do is unfair.
- EX: Submissive wives = oppression.
- We don't respect those who are meek
  - Anyone willing to submit must be weak or foolish.
    - EX: NOFX song about his friend who is a Christian: "rather kneel down than take charge of his life".
  - People who don't fight back are wimps and cowards.

## Rebellion Mistaken for Power

- The opposite of meekness, is rebellion
  - Easily provoked.
  - Harsh.
  - Doesn't follow orders.
- People assume that rebellion is power
  - You do what *you* want.
  - No one can control you.
- Our society values rebellion
  - We despise authority because we've witnessed many evil authorities.
    - Evil tyrants.
    - Religious leaders using God to manipulate and control.
    - Soldiers extorting.
    - Police corruption.
    - Abusive husbands.
    - We see authority as evil and despise it. We respect those who will rebel to keep any entity from gaining too much power.
    - EX: guy wouldn't roll down his window at a check point and complained that the cops were abusing authority.
  - We value personal freedom over all.
    - We value personal freedom over all. We believe anyone should be able to do whatever they want as long as it doesn't infringe on the freedoms of others too much.
    - We see anyone telling us what to do as robbing us of our greatest treasure.
    - We respect those who fight against established traditions and rules in order to keep their right to individualism, those who do whatever they want.
    - EX: fighting against gender. We can be whatever gender was want, regardless of what gender we actually are, and others have to completely accept that.
  - We value power.
    - We want to be our own bosses.
    - We want to be bigger and better than everyone else.
    - We won't allow anyone to cross us.
- What is rebellion really?
  - It's reckless selfishness motivated by pride.
  - Selfish: I do what I want.

*I'm not saying that there are no evil authorities, or that being meek and submissive will keep authorities from being evil.*

- Reckless: not considering who is being affected by my selfishness.
- Pride: I don't have to listen to anyone else because I'm so important.
- What do rebellious people do?
  - Whatever they want.
  - Fight against authorities that jeopardize their freedom to do whatever they want:
    - Disobey parents.
    - Talk back to teachers, refuse to follow their instruction.
    - Disrespect policemen.
    - Cheat against bosses.
    - Lie on taxes.
  - If they rebel against authorities because they want to do whatever they want, then how will they respond peers and those of equal authority?
    - Fight to keep others from getting ahead of them.
    - Fight to keep others from having more than them.
    - Fight to get their own way.
    - Fight against spouses that keep them from getting their own way.
- The truth about rebellion:
  - We think rebellion is what ensures our freedom to do whatever we want so we can get whatever we want.
  - The truth is we are slaves to our selfishness, being out of control, and doing many things that we regret and are harmful.

## What is Meekness Really?

- Meekness is not weakness
  - The assumption is that anyone who does what he's told does so because he is weak. However, there are other reasons one might choose to do what he's told. Someone can be very powerful and strong, and yet still be submissive to another.
  - EX: The domesticated horse has just as much muscle and power. Much more so than the human he submits to.
  - EX: Jesus
    - Two out of four times the word meek is used in NT, it's about Jesus.
    - We see Jesus doing what He is told.
    - Yet, we know Jesus has absolute power.
  - It is clear that if someone is meek it does not mean that they are weak.
- Meekness is a choice
  - Meekness is not submitting because you are physically forced to.
  - Meekness is choosing to submit for the purpose to serve.
    - EX: The domesticated horse serves his master now. He doesn't try to be harsh and hurt master, but rather gentle and obedient.
- We choose to submit to God because He is a good master.
  - James 4:7: *Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*
  - We used to be slaves to sin, selfishness, and death, but God has set us free to serve Him instead.



- Rom 6:16: *Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness.*
- Rom 6:21: *Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death.*
- Rom 6:21: *But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.*
- Rom 6:17-18: *But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*
- We are going to be serving someone in this world, either ourselves and Satan, which leads to problems, or God. We choose to submit to God because He is a good master.
- God commands us to submit to others.
  - I Pet 2:13-14: Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every **human institution**, whether to a **king** as the one in authority, or to **governors** as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.
  - Tit 2:9: Urge **bondservants** to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative.
  - I Pet 3:1: In the same way, you **wives**, be submissive to your own **husbands** so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives.
  - Heb 13:17: Obey your **leaders** and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.
  - I Pet 5:5: You **younger men**, likewise, be subject to your **elders**; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.
  - Eph 5:21: and be subject to **one another** in the fear of Christ.
- God commands us to submit in a meek and gentle way
  - Eph 4:2: *With all **humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.***
  - Phi 4:5: *Let your **gentle spirit** be known to all men. The Lord is near.*
  - Tit 3:1-3: *Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, to **malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration** for all men. For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.*

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

Mat 21:5: *Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold your King is coming to you, gentle, and mounted on A donkey, even on A colt, the foal of A beast of burden."*

Mat 26:39, 42: *And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will ... He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done.*

Mat 26:53: *Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels.*

Col 1:16-17: *For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*

- I Pet 3:4: *but let it be the **hidden person of the heart**, with the imperishable quality of a **gentle and quiet spirit**, which is precious in the sight of God.*
- Mat 5:38-44: *You have heard that it was said, “An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.” But I say to you, **do not resist an evil person**; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, **turn the other to him also**. If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, **let him have your coat also**. Whoever forces you to go one mile, **go with him two**. Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. “You have heard that it was said, ‘ You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. ’ But I say to you, **love your enemies** and pray for those who persecute you.”*
- What do meek people do?
  - Volunteer to help and serve.
  - Don't disrespect those who are being unfair.
  - Address problems with others calmly and without being confrontational.
  - Obey parents when only told once.
  - Not talk back to teachers whether teacher is fair or not.
  - Suffer injustice without making a scene.
  - Very slow to anger.
  - Honor husbands no matter how unfair they are.
  - Love wives no matter how selfish they are.
  - Obey their parents even when it seems unreasonable.
- This might seem unfair or too difficult, but...
- This is what Christ did:
  - Mat 20:28: *Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*
  - I Pet 2:21-25: *For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.*
- If God was willing to come to this earth to exhibit this behavior Himself, He has every right to demand and expect it, and we have every obligation to comply.

## **Result: They Shall Inherit the Earth**

- Is it a blessing to be meek?
  - How can meekness be a blessing? If you are meek you will be...
    - Abused
    - Taken advantage of
    - Miss out on luxuries and opportunities
    - Summary: Not get everything in this life that you would like.
  - Nice guys finish last. God call us to be those good guys.
    - Mk 9:35: *If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.*
    - We will be last in this life. And we need to accept that.

- What is the blessing of being meek?
  - Life is all about submission
    - No matter who you are, you're going to have to submit to someone more powerful than you.
    - If you can't submit, you can't function as...
      - Citizens
      - Employees
      - Spouses
    - If you are rebellious, you will always be bitter and angry
      - You will always be bitter about others demanding things of you.
      - You will always be angry about anything that doesn't go your way.
  - Christianity is all about submission
    - If you can't submit, there is absolutely no way you can be a Christian.
    - Being a Christian is all about doing what your told, and doing it with a good attitude.
    - If you can't submit, how will you ever submit to God as Lord?
    - If you can't submit, you won't submit to EVERYONE that God commands you to submit to.
    - In short, if you can't submit, you are not the person God wants you to be.
- The meek shall inherit the earth
  - It seems like the meek will lose everything. It seems like the meek won't get what they deserve.
  - This is not true.
  - Rather than entering this world to try and take everything they can get...
  - They live a life of submission, and wait for God to give them the entire world.
  - Lk 14:7: *"When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this man,' and then in disgrace you proceed to occupy the last place. But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are at the table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.*
  - Mat 19:27-30: *Then Peter said to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?" And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last; and the last, first.*

# The Beatitudes

## Lesson 5: Blessed are Those Who Hunger & Thirst

## Definition of Terms

- Hunger and thirst:
  - Literally: hunger for food, thirst for drink
  - Figuratively: Extreme desire
    - Automatic natural desire
    - Insatiable (3x daily)
    - Becomes priority, determines schedule
    - Alters person, affects mood and behavior
    - Causes physical discomfort until satisfied
    - Essential to satisfy. If not, causes death
  - Purpose of desire
    - To coerce person to provide the food and drink his body needs.
    - Some people have a chronic lack of appetite. Is a great struggle for them to eat. Causes great problems for body.
- Righteousness:
  - Dikaioné: justice, justness, righteousness
  - From diké: judicial verdict, judicial approval
    - God's just approval; things that are right in God's eyes, meet His standards
    - Applies to being righteous, doing righteous things, and things that are righteous, i.e. worship, prayer, scripture, etc...
  - This lesson we will focus on the last of those three.
- An extreme desire for righteous things.

## Hungering for Food

- It's good to hunger for food, but it also matters what kind of food we hunger for.
- Typically we hunger for unhealthy food
  - Why do we hunger for unhealthy food?
    - It's very tasty
    - It's immediately satisfying
  - What is the result of bad food?
    - Nothing good. No real energy. No wholesome feeling.
    - Feel bad soon after. Sick stomach. Sugar crash.
    - Feel bad consistently. Bowel troubles. Fatigue.
    - Impending major chronic and potentially fatal health problems
- We need to hunger for healthy food
  - Why don't we typically hunger for healthy food?
    - It doesn't taste as good, not as enjoyable
    - Difficult, potentially unpleasant to eat at all
  - What are the results of healthy food?
    - Even though healthy food does not taste good, it is good for us.
    - More energy.

- Feel better on the inside.
- Even if it is not an instantly enjoyable experience, it provides a satisfying condition that lasts much longer.
- Blessing to hunger for healthy food
  - Imagine what a blessing it would be if we craved for healthy food as much as we craved for unhealthy food.
  - We would love to eat good things, so we would eat lots of good things.
  - We would then easily avoid suffering the bad consequences of unhealthy food.
  - We would easily receive the benefits of healthy food.

## Hungering for Righteousness

- Just like our body craves food, our minds and hearts crave for things as well.
- This desire is good because it can lead us to seek the things we truly need, but it can also cause us to settle for evil things instead.
- We have a craving, but we need a craving for righteousness.
- We typically hunger for sin
  - Why?
    - Sin is immediately pleasing and enjoyable.
    - It's easy and fun.
    - It has immediate advantages.
    - It comes VERY naturally; don't have to try.
  - What is the result?
    - The immediate value fades quickly.
    - It brings negative consequences.
    - It doesn't satisfy us.
    - It leaves us addicted.
    - We will talk more about this later.
- We need to hunger for righteousness
  - Why don't we hunger for righteous things?
    - They are boring.
    - They are awkward, and you feel unable to do them properly.
      - Don't understand what you're reading.
      - Don't know what to pray about, or how to pray long.
      - Don't have emotion during worship.
    - They seem to have no immediate benefit. You don't foresee any longterm benefit.
    - Everything else is easier and more fun.
    - No one else is doing it.
    - You don't have to do it (other church people don't).
  - What is the result of righteous things?
    - Transformation: change in mind, change in heart, change in actions.
    - Become righteous (you are what you eat).
    - Clean conscience
    - Better life that comes from being transformed
    - Better attitude.
    - Good consequences from righteous behavior

- Hope, purpose, fulfillment, etc...
- We will talk more about this later.
- Blessing to hunger for righteousness
  - Imagine what a blessing it would be if we had extreme desire for righteous things rather than sin.
  - If we had a desire for righteous things, we would seek after righteous things more often.
  - We would more readily deny sin, and avoid its bad consequences.
  - We would easily receive the good consequences that come from righteous things.

## Cultivating a Desire for Righteousness

- Cultivating a hunger for healthy food
  - Issue:
    - We don't like healthy food as much, so we don't eat it even though we know we're better off if we do. If we desired healthy food, then we would eat more of it.
    - How do we cultivate a desire for it?
  - Grow accustomed to it
    - We don't like foods that are different. The new taste is unfamiliar and uncomfortable.
    - They say it takes a child 30 times to eat something to grow accustomed to it. Some kids never grow up eating any vegetables. As an adult, they don't like them. Other kids were forced to eat them growing up and have a taste for them as adults.
    - If we never eat vegetables, they will always taste bad.
    - If we begin to eat them some, even though we don't like the taste, we will get used to the taste over time.
    - Eventually we will be able to tolerate the vegetables. Later we might even begin to really love the taste.
  - Experience benefits
    - If we have had an unhealthy diet, we are currently experiencing the negative consequences.
    - Sometimes we know exactly what those consequences are (overweight).
    - Other consequences we might be aware of, but we just think it's normal because that's all we've known (lack of energy, consistent upset stomach). We don't even attribute those consequences to our bad diet.
    - When we begin to eat a consistently healthy diet, we begin to experience the benefits.
    - We see or feel improvements in ways that we expected.
    - We also see and feel improvements in more ways than we expected. In some ways, we'll feel good for the first time in our life.
  - Increased desire
    - After experiencing those good benefits, we will realize that it's worth eating healthy food even if it doesn't taste as good as unhealthy food.
    - Also, we are more accustomed to the taste, so it's easier for us to eat it.
    - Eventually we begin to lose our desire for unhealthy food.
      - Some unhealthy food (McDonald's) we begin to even loathe the taste.
      - Other unhealthy foods we still have a desire for, but choose to stay away from them anyways because of their negative consequences.
    - Now we have a genuine desire to keep healthy food as the consistent majority in our diet.

- Cultivating a desire for righteousness
  - Issue:
    - We don't like doing righteous things as much even though we know that's what's better for us. If we really had a desire for righteousness, then we would seek after righteous things more.
    - How can we develop a desire for righteous things?
  - Grow accustomed to them
    - Prayer will be difficult when we are not accustomed to doing it.
      - We need to learn what to pray about.
      - We need to learn what ways we need to pray.
      - We need to learn discipline and focus.
      - We need to learn how to make it a regular part of our schedule.
      - We have to start praying if we want to grow accustomed to it.
    - Reading is confusing when we aren't accustomed to doing it.
      - The more we learn, the more we're able to learn from reading. So we need to start off small.
      - We need to get used to vocabulary and style.
      - We need to learn what reading to do.
      - We need to learn to incorporate it into our daily schedule.
    - We are spiritual people living in physical bodies in a physical world.
    - It's challenging for us to do spiritual things. We will need to engage in spiritual activities to help us become more accustomed to them.
  - Experience the benefits
    - Escape bad consequences of sin.
      - In sin we receive no long lasting benefits.
      - We are experiencing the negative consequences of sin.
      - We continue to feel empty, guilty, frustrated, hopeless, etc...
    - After consistent pursuit of righteous things, we begin to experience the benefits.
      - We enjoy the good consequences of doing righteous things.
      - We enjoy feeling better. Not being guilty, angry, sad.
      - We enjoy having purpose, feeling love, feeling satisfied.
    - Increased desire for righteousness
      - Even though seeking righteousness takes more effort and does not come easily, we realize that the results are worth the effort. We desire righteousness enough to put forth the effort.
      - That that we are being transformed by righteousness, some sins becomes detestable to us.
      - Other sins still tempt us, but we understand well enough that we don't want to do them anymore.
      - Now that we have a greater desire for righteous things, we will more gladly put forth effort to seek them.
  - Examples of hungering and thirsting for righteousness
    - Ps 63:1-8: *O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly; my soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, In a dry and weary land where there is no water. Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips will praise You. So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth offers praises with joyful lips. When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches, for You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to You; your right hand upholds me.*

- Rom 8:5-7: *For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*
- Phi 3:7-10: *But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.*
- Phi 4:8: *Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.*

II Pet 2:12: *But these, like unreasoning **animals**, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed ... will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed.*

II Pet 2:13: ***suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong.** They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime.*

II Pet 2:14: *having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a **heart trained in greed**, accursed children.*

II Pet 2:17: *These are **springs without water** and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved.*

II Pet 2:19: *promising them freedom while they themselves are **slaves of corruption**; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.*

II Pet 2:22: *It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "A dog returns to its own **vomit**."*

## Result: They Shall Be Satisfied

- Spiritual cravings
  - We are spiritual people inhabiting a physical body.
    - Our physical body has physical cravings.
    - God has also given our souls spiritual cravings.
      - Something more
        - Eccl 3:11: *He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set **eternity in their heart**, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.*
    - Rest, belonging, comfort that can't be satisfied here
      - II Cor 5:2-5: *For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. For **indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened**, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.*
  - Purpose, meaning
    - Rom 8:20-22: *For the **creation was subjected to futility**, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery*

Acts 17:27: *That they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.*



*to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.*

- God has set given us these cravings to seek what we need.
    - Yes we need fill the cravings of the body.
    - More so, we need to seek to satisfy these spiritual cravings. In doing so, they will be our road map to God.
    - The result is that we will be more spiritual people ourselves.
  - Shortcuts to fill these cravings.
    3. Sin
      - Satan promises us that sin will fill these cravings..
      - Gen 3, satan promised sin would satisfy the woman by making her wise.
      - Rather than filling us up, sin destroys and leaves us empty.
      - This is how the Holy Spirit describes someone trying to find satisfaction in sin:
      - Example from II Peter
        - 2:12: They are animals
        - 2:13: Suffer the wages of wrong
        - 2:14: Insatiable desires
        - 2:17: They become nothing
        - 2:19: They become slaves
        - 2:22: Feasting on vomit
    4. “Harmless” physical things
      - Besides sin, we try to fill ourselves with physical things that are not morally wrong, but are still insufficient to fill us.
      - Though we have profound spiritual needs, we try to use physical things as a shortcut to fulfillment.
      - These physical things come naturally and are immediately enjoyable. It makes us believe that the temporary happiness can lead to true satisfaction.
      - Examples:
        - Vacation
        - Media, video games
        - Fun outings, concerts, baseball games
        - Hobbies, projects
        - Pets
      - Physical things aren’t sufficient to fill profound spiritual needs, but they are shortcuts to minor temporary fixes.
      - EX: Super Nintendo on New Year’s Eve. Was fun, then over, just regret over wasted time. Nothing to last a lifetime.
- \* Ultimately, both of these things are based on selfishness. If it’s selfishness then it can’t satisfy because there is no end to selfish desire. Selfishness only breeds more desire, which results in less satisfaction
- Only righteousness can bring satisfaction
    - Example of spiritual needs being satisfied by spiritual things
      - Spiritual needs can only be satisfied with spiritual things.
      - Purpose: the one ultimate reason God put us here.
      - Hope: the hope of being with God for eternity.
      - Clean conscience: the assurance that we’ve been forgiven.

- Meaning: the knowledge that our lives matter to God.
- Self-worth: the confidence that we are living a life the right way.
- Love: knowing that we are loved by the source of all love itself; being taught how to love Him and others.
- Character: being provided the motivation and wisdom of how to become what we were designed to be. The power to transform from evil to good.
- How do we gain all these spiritual things?
  - The scripture is what gives us this knowledge.
  - Study is what helps us understand it.
  - Prayer is what makes us believe it.
  - Worship is how we enjoy it.

\* Righteousness calls us to be selfless, so it takes away the insatiable selfish desire, and transforms it into actions of love for others. Loving others is when we can finally find a full satisfaction. Seeking after righteous things is how we will come to understand that love, and live that love.

- Ps 63:3: Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips will praise You

# The Beatitudes

## Lesson 6: Blessed are the Pure in Heart

### Definition of Terms

- Pure: katharos: kath-ar-os'
  - Clean, pure, unstained
  - Without admixture
  - Mat 23:26: *You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the **outside of it may become clean also.***
  - Acts 20:26: *Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am **innocent of the blood of all men.***
  - I Tim 1:5: *But the goal of our instruction is **love from a pure heart** and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*
- Heart: kardia
  - Literal heart, figurative inner life, intention
  - The word heart is used to mean many things, but we will focus on two specific uses of "heart".
  - Intention / motivation:
    - Mat 5:28: *but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already **committed adultery with her in his heart.***

- Heb 4:12: *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the **thoughts and intentions of the heart**.*
- Desires:
  - Mat 6:21: *for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*
  - Phi 1:7: *For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me.*
- Pure in heart:
  - Clean and pure intentions and motivations. Everything you do is motivated by pure intentions.
  - Clean and pure desires. Someone who is pure in heart has pure desires.
- \* Hunger and thirsting for righteousness is desiring pure things. Being pure in heart is desiring to be righteous.

## Desires & Actions

- We do what we want
  - We have desires, intentions, and motivations, and we are motivated to do what we desire.
  - If you do something, it's because you wanted to do it.
  - It's possible to have two conflicting desires for opposite things.
    - Desire to get up and exercise.
    - Desire to stay in bed.
  - Whichever you did was the one you desired most.
    - Get out and exercised means you desire exercise more than sleep.
    - Stay in bed means you desire sleep more than exercise.
- Evil desires lead to sinful actions
  - If we have evil desires, we will do evil things
  - Mat 15:18-19: *But the **things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart**, and those defile the man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.*
    - Our evil desires are the source of all the evil things we do.
    - If we are doing something evil, it came from the heart.
  - James 1:13-15: *Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But **each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust**. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.*
    - We are tempted by the things we lust (desire) after.
    - Something is only tempting if we want to do it.
    - EX: I'm not tempted to smoke crack.
    - If we desire it, it will tempt us, then we will be sinning more.
- There is no benefit to be being a wicked person who does righteous things
  - Mat 12:33: *Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit.*

- Mat 23:26: *You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also.*
- Pure desires lead to righteous actions
  - If we have pure desires, then we will do righteous things.
  - Tit 1:15: *To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.*
    - Unlike these evil false teachers, those who are pure in heart will do all pure things.
- We need to focus on our desires, not just our actions
  - Sometimes we only try to change our behavior, but our behavior won't change unless we change our heart.
  - We won't do anything differently if we don't want to do anything differently.
  - If we want our actions to change, we need to change our desires.
    - Jms 4:8: *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and **purify your hearts**, you double.*

## Purify Your Heart

- Where are we looking?
  - Mat 6:22-23: The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness.
    - Being full of light = pure.
    - To be full of light, we need to look at the light.
    - If we look at darkness, we will be full of darkness.
- Don't look at darkness
  - Prov 4:23: Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.
  - Ps 101:3-4: I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not fasten its grip on me. A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will know no evil.
  - If we look at evil things, that will have an effect on our heads, change our desires, and determine our actions.
- Look to the light
  - Col 3:2: *Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.*
  - Phi 4:8: *Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.*
  - If we look to the light, that will have an effect on our heads, change our desires, and determine our actions.
- Changing our head and heart is the key to changing our actions.
  - Head, heart, hands = Thinking, desires, actions.
  - To change our hands, we need to change our hearts. To change our hearts we need to change our heads.

- To change our actions we need to change our desires. To change our desires, we need to change our thinking.
- To change our thinking, we need to look to the light.

*1 Jn 1:7: but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

- Rom 8:5-8: *For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*
- Rom 12:1: *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

## Result: They Shall See God

- It's a blessing to be pure in heart
  - It's a blessing to have a sincere desire to be righteous.
  - That means we will actually be righteous, and receive the benefits of righteous living.
- Sin separated us from God
  - We all want to see God, but we don't anymore.
  - God used to walk in the garden, but sin removed us from the garden, and separated us from Him.
  - Evil desires and guilt from sin continue to keep us from being close to Him.
- Being pure in heart makes us close to God
  - If we are pure in heart, we will truly desire God and righteous things.
  - If we are pure in heart we will be walking in the light.
  - If we are walking in the light we have fellowship with Him.
- We will be so close to God, it's like we can see Him
  - With no evil to separate us from God, we are so close, it's like we can see Him.
  - Closeness to God is the greatest gift we can enjoy in this life.
  - Also, we will soon see God in heaven.

*Gen 3:8: They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.*

*Gen 3:8-10: and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.*

*1 Jn 4:12: No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in.*

*1 Jn 3:1-3: See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure*

## Conclusion

- God wants us to be people who are completely righteous, which means he doesn't want us to be wicked people doing righteous things. He wants us to be completely righteous inside and out.

# The Beatitudes

## Lesson 7: Blessed are the Merciful

### Definition of Terms

- Merciful: eleémon: el-eh-ay-mon
  - Full of pity, compassionate
  - Heb 2:17: *Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.*
  - Jesus dying on the cross is what proved that He pitied our sinful position, and was compassionate enough to do something to solve it.
- To have mercy / to be merciful
  - Eleeó: el-eh-ay-oh
  - This is the more common verb form of the word "merciful".
  - To have pity, to extend compassion.
  - Mat 9:27: *As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"*
  - Mat 15:22: *And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and began to cry out, saying, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon."*
  - Mat 17:15: *Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is a lunatic and is very ill; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water.*
- Merciful = someone who shows mercy = someone who pities the misfortune of others, and is compassionate enough to do good to help them.

### Being Merciful

- What does it mean to be merciful?
5. Do good to those who have done nothing to deserve it.
    - Mat 5:46: *For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same.*

- Lk 10:33-35: *But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.'*
- 6. Don't return evil for evil
  - Rom 12:17-19: *Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.*
  - Mat 1:19: *And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.*
- 7. Do good to those who have done evil to you
  - Mat 5:44: *But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*
  - Rom 12:20-21: *But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him A drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*
- This is what God has done
  1. He did good for those who did nothing to deserve it
    - Rom 5:6: *For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.*
  2. He didn't punish those who did evil
    - Rom 5:8: *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*
    - Lk 23:34: *But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."*
  3. He loved His enemies
    - Rom 5:10: *For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*

## **We Need Compassion**

- How can we be motivated to do good for these people?
- We need to have be able to have pity for their bad fortune.
  - Mat 9:13: *But go and learn what this means: 'I desire compassion, and not sacrifice, ' for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.*
    - The Pharisees didn't want to do good for the "sinners" because the sinners have done nothing to deserve it.
    - Jesus condemns them for not pitying these sinners, seeing their need, and extending compassion.
- To have mercy on enemies, we need to pity them
  - Jesus
    - Lk 23:34: *But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."*
    - Lk 23:37: *And following Him was a large crowd of the people, and of women who were mourning and lamenting Him. But Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts*

*that never nursed. ' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ' Fall on us, ' and to the hills, ' Cover us. ' For if they do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry.*

- Jesus could see that those who were hurting Him worse in worse condition than He was.
- If someone steals from you, they are in worse position than you.

## **The Result: They Shall Receive Mercy**

- If we show mercy to others, God will show mercy to us
  - Mat 6:14-15: *For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.*
  - Mat 7:1-2: *Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.*
  - Mat 25:31-46
- We need mercy, so it is a blessing to be merciful.

# **The Beatitudes**

## **Lesson 8: Blessed are the Peacemakers**

### **Definition of Terms**

- Peacemaker: eirénopios: i-ray-nop-oy-os'
  - Pacific, loving peace
  - From "eiréné" and "poieó"
    - Eiréné: i-ray'-nay: join / tie together, make whole
    - Poieó: poy-eh'-o: to make
- To bring together, cause harmony, and unite division

### **How to Be a Peacemaker**

1. Don't cause division
  - We need to be able to have humility that will keep us from doing things that cause division.
    - Eph 4:1-3: *Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*



- We need to have wisdom to keep ourselves from turning issues into decisive problems.
- 2. Don't add to the division.
  - There are going to be issues. We need to have the wisdom to handle these issues without causing more problems.
    - Jms 4:13-18: *Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*
  - We can't respond to evil with more evil (revenge)
    - Rom 12:21: *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*
- 3. Work to reconcile
  - Put forth the effort to solve the problem.
  - Rom 12:18: *If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.*
  - Eph 4:26-27: *Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.*
  - Mat 5:23-25: *Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.*
- Two examples: Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcom X.
  - Malcom X = any means necessary. Evil for evil. Persisted division.
  - Martin Luther = good for evil. Put an end to the division.
- This is what God did
  - We were enemies.
  - He initiated the peace.
  - He put invested to make peace possible.
  - He forgave us of our transgressions.

## True Peacemaking

- The real peace we need is peace with God
  - Rom 5:1: *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- Real peacemaking is bringing people to peace with God
  - II Cor 5:18-21: *Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

## **Result: Sons of God**

- Like father like son.
- Making peace is exactly what our God does.
- The more we make peace, the more we will be like our God.

# **The Beatitudes**

## **Lesson 9: Blessed are the Persecuted**

### **Definition of Terms**

- Persecuted: pursued, aggressively chased, hunted.
- For righteousness sake
  - For doing good / being good.
  - For moral convictions.
- For Jesus' name sake
  - Belief / loyalty to Jesus.
  - Doctrinal convictions.

### **Righteousness Sake**

- Others will persecute us for righteousness sake.
1. They don't understand, therefore they think we are foolish, and make fun of us
    - 1 Pet 4:4: *In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you.*
    - They don't see the reason why you do things and don't do other things.
    - You are the minority, so you are weird, and made fun of.
    - EX: Going to church every time.
    - EX: Not going to beach and wearing swimsuit.
  2. They feel condemned, so they are mad
    - If you are doing something "right", the implication is that they are wrong. They don't like being told they are wrong, so they are upset.

- Eph 5:11-14: *Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you".*
- No one likes being woken up. They won't appreciate you for that.
- They won't like your religious convictions, saying things are bad. Homosexuality, etc...

## Jesus' Name Sake

- Others will persecute you because of your belief and loyalty to Jesus.
1. Foolish
    - Fool for having faith.
    - Believing myth.
    - I Cor 1:18: *For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing.*
    - I Cor 1:26: *For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble.*
    - Foolish church stuff = crusades, evil priests, people with blind faith.
  2. Feel condemned
    - If you accept Jesus, you deny everything else.
    - Acts 4:12: *And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.*
    - Everyone else is wrong.

## Result: Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven

- We are going to be persecuted
  - Mat 10:25: *It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign the members of his household.*
  - Mk 13:13: *You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.*
- We have to be able to stand up against persecution
  - Mat 10:33: *But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.*
  - II Tim 2:12: *If we endure, we will also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us.*
  - Rev 21:8: *But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.*
- If we can endure persecution, we be able to receive our reward
  - Theirs is the kingdom of heaven: we will be in the kingdom.
  - Great reward in heaven.