

Upside-Down Living
The Radical Message of the Beatitudes
What Does a Blessed Life Look Like?

Matthew 5:1-12

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Sept. 16, 2018

I. What is this Kingdom Jesus is Talking About?

Note that these beatitudes are sandwiched between two references to the kingdom.

Matthew 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

The Sermon on the Mount is about the kingdom of God and Jesus spoke about it incessantly, so it’s good to get your head around what He’s talking about, because it’s related to who is and is not one of His children.

You never find Jesus saying, “Ask Me into your heart,” but instead you see Him saying, “Repent and enter the kingdom.”

An example of this is Jesus talking to Nicodemus about being born again in **John 3**. He says unless you’re born again, you can’t even see the kingdom. New birth introduces you to a new kingdom!

King Jesus is the supernatural and ultimate king who’s been given all authority and power to establish a new administration that He calls the Kingdom of God. The effects of this new kingdom are more comprehensive and radical than we could ever imagine!

II. How Do You Know If You’re in this Kingdom or Not?

Jesus describes what the distinguishing characteristics are of people who are in this new kingdom.

The order in which Jesus gives us these Beatitudes does matter, because the first four Beatitudes seem to lay a foundation for the rest.

These first four Beatitudes stand together because they all have to do with the universal fact that human beings have an undeniable and inescapable problem painted over the entire history of humanity that hasn’t been eradicated.

These Beatitudes show us that kingdom people, like everyone else, see the problem, but they approach this problem radically different than the rest of the world.

A. You Understand that Our Real Problem is Way Beyond Us and Will Never Be Solved by Some Kind of Self-Help

Matthew 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Jesus makes this the first Beatitude because knows we are so prone to be self-sufficient or self-rich rather than poor in spirit. He says this is the very starting point for making any progress in the Christian life or coming into the Kingdom of God.

The kingdom person has come to realize that their problems are spiritual and they cannot help themselves, because they can't do this on their own.

You don't just try Christianity like some self-help book. You have to be 'poor in spirit' so that you can turn to God knowing you have nothing, but He has everything and that your problems are way beyond yourself.

B. You Realize that this Spiritual Problem is a Sin Problem that's Feeding All of Our Other Problems

Matthew 5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Being poor in spirit leads to this second Beatitude of mourning over your own sin so that you're struck by it and grieved over it.

Jesus said 'Blessed are those who mourn,' because if you never mourn over your sin, you'll never be comforted and you'll always be confused.

C. You Are Broken and Humble Enough to Realize that this Sin Problem is Your Own Problem and Not Just Somebody Else's

Matthew 5:5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

If you're in God's kingdom you see yourself as the biggest sinner you know. That's one of the distinguishing marks of a Christian. They see and acknowledge their own sin.

D. You Are Hungry for a Solution or a Savior that is Outside of Yourself

Matthew 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."

Wisdom is not just a body of knowledge that we try to master or memorize, but it's ultimately found in a person – and His name is Jesus.

Jesus embodies everything else that we lack, but we need to be in a right relationship with the God of the universe.

I Corinthians 1:30 "But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God – and righteousness and sanctification and redemption."

Jesus is the mega-gift and blessing that contains all the other gifts in Himself, so that with Him you have all of them and without Him you have nothing. Through Jesus we are then blessed with every other spiritual blessing.

When Christ comes into your life He forgives your sin, changes your heart, reconciles you to a Holy God, adopts you into His family, gives you His Spirit and gives you His righteousness as if it was your own!

The solution to your biggest problem will never be found within you, but it has to come from outside of you. It's a righteousness that's not your own. See **Romans 3:10-18**.