

Matthew 5:3-12

A New Economy of Blessing Notes

Attention:

- Matthew 16:22 – you shall not die
 - Only 9 verses separate - Matthew 16:13 – You are the Messiah
- Why did Peter react the way he did? Because he was sure that One Sent by God would never be subjected to that kind of treatment by mere humans. It just could not happen that way.
- He had walked beside Jesus for years, and still what he thought was right was not right at all.
- It is entirely possible that you have lived for a long time being sure of what it took to get to heaven only to now be confronted by Jesus with an entirely new criteria.

Need: - confused, deceived, complacent, stubborn

How are we to view these statements?

- 1) Are you blessed because you exhibit the virtue and parenthetically rewarded?
 - a. You will be blessed if you...and you will be rewarded by...
- 2) Are you blessed because you will be rewarded for exhibiting the virtue?
- 3) Are you blessed and therefore enabled to show the virtue?

Answer is partly in the definition of the word blessed

- Blessed – 3107 – makarioi –
 - blessed one, possessing the favor of God, the state of being marked by fullness from God
 - indicates the state of a believer in Christ – 2 Peter 1:4
 - Aristotle contrasted makarios with endees (1729 – the needy one, miserable)
 - Is the one who is in the world yet independent of the world. His satisfaction comes from God and not from favorable circumstance
 - Antonym = eleeinos – to be miserable =
 - 1 Corinthians 15:19 – if Christ isn't Christ
 - Revelation 3:17 – think we are rich but really poor, blind, wretched and miserable
 - Undercuts the notion that material blessings are a sign of God's approval

- Beatitudes are not ethical demands for personal behavior – they are theological pronouncements about those on whom God’s favor rests – descriptions of those who are in Christ!
- 1) Those who are in Christ fully understand their spiritual bankruptcy
- Poor in spirit
 - Poor = 4434 = ptochoy
 - From ptocheo – to crouch, cower like a beggar
 - Spirit = 4151 pneumatī –
 - Seat of affections, emotions, passions
 - So poor in spirit is a realization of complete spiritual helplessness
 - We recognize our ability to become righteous on our own
 - Jesus teaches that spiritual bankruptcy is the norm for the Kingdom of God - not spiritual self-sufficiency embodied by most of the religious leaders
 - Paul = Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ
 - Kingdom of Heaven
 - Kingdom of Heaven –
 - Interchangeable with Kingdom of God,
 - Matthew uses Kingdom of Heaven, others use Kingdom of God but are the same thing
 - God’s sovereign rule or reign over all things
 - Not geographical – not nation or place
 - Not demographical – not age group, class, or race of people
 - Not self-built – we don’t build the kingdom, God does
 - Key verses:
 - Matthew 6:33
 - Some times refers to God’s rule in us – Matthew 13:41, 47, 20:1
 - Sometimes refers to a state of glory – 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Galatians 5:21
- 2) Those who are in Christ show genuine sorrow over their sinfulness
- Mourning ones – 3996 – penthountes
 - To mourn, lament, be sad, sorrowful
 - The loss of anything one values will lead to mourning
 - 9 Greek words used for mourning – this is the strongest
 - 2 Corinthians 7:10-11
 - Mourn over spiritual bankruptcy
 - Shall be comforted = 3870 = paraklethesontai

- Literally = called along sided
 - Paraklete = Spirit / Helper
 - To aid, comfort, encourage, console
 - Isaiah 40:1 Comfort, comfort my people!
 - Matthew 1:21 He takes away the sins of the world
 - Revelation 7:17 God will wipe away every tear
- 3) Those who are in Christ submit to the leadership of their Master.
- Meek = 4239 = prais –
 - Meek, mild, gentle
 - Used in Matthew 21:5 – Jesus on a donkey
 - Used in 1 Peter 3:4 – wives submit to husband and God
 - **Domesticated animal respond to trainer**
 - Doesn't denote an outward expression of feeling but an inward grace of the soul
 - Calmness toward God in general
 - Acceptance of God's dealings with us considering them good in that they enhance the closeness of our relationship with Him
 - Does not blame God for evil and persecutions of men
 - It is a gentleness in power, a balance born in strength of character
 - Antonym is exasperation
 - The domineering, aggressive, harsh and tyrannical are often those who attempt to dominate the earth and establish their own little kingdoms
 - Meek are those who do not assert themselves over others to establish their causes
 - Shall inherit – 2816 – kleronoensosi
 - To be an heir
 - To obtain, acquire, possess
 - Christ's reign on earth – Matthew 23:35
 - Spiritual inheritance – Ephesians 1:18, Colossians 1:12, Hebrews 9:15
 - The earth – gen – 1093
 - Earth, country, region, territory
 - Quoted here from Psalm 37:11
- 4) Those who are in Christ desire to conform to God's authority.
- Hungering ones– 3983 –peinontes
 - Hungry, famished, starved
 - Figuratively – to long for, greatly desire
 - Thirsting ones – 1372 – diphontes
 - To be dry or thirsty

- Figuratively – to desire ardently
 - Righteousness – 1343 – dikaiosune
 - Conformity to the claims of a higher authority – stands in opposition to anomia – lawlessness –
 - For an unbeliever – conformity to whatever authority they understand
 - Pharisees = adherence to the law – Matthew 5:20
 - For a believer – conformity to God’s authority – thus conformity to all the commands or appoints
 - Romans 1:17 – For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, [fn] as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." [fn]
 - Romans 3:21-22 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it-- the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.
 - Shall be filled – 5526 – chortasthesontai
 - Feed, fill, satisfy
 - Isaiah 55:2 - Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.
 - Jeremiah 2:13 - for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.
 - John 4:13-15; 6:35
- 5) Those who are in Christ demonstrate God’s mercy
- Merciful ones – 1655 – elenmones
 - Compassionate, merciful
 - Benevolently merciful involving thought and action
 - Not one who merely expresses acts of mercy but who have this attribute as a result of the indwelling God
 - Hebrews 2:17 – spoken of Christ
 - Religious leadership in Jesus day tended toward being merciless because of their demand for righteous observance of the law – their motive may be commendable – namely the purity of God’s people – but their actions were inexcusably sinful because their unbending demands produced harshness and condemnation toward those who did not meet their expectations
 - Shall receive mercy – 1653 – elevthesontai
 - To show mercy, compassion, to extend help for the consequence of sin

- To have compassion on a person in an unhappy circumstance not just a feeling of sympathy but active desire to help remove these miseries
- Showing mercy does not earn God's mercy but rather it is an attitude given us by God
- Religious leaders could not receive mercy because they were self satisfied and did not think they needed mercy

6) Those who are in Christ are made pure in their inner being.

- Pure – 2513 – katharoi
 - Clean, pure, clear, unsoiled
 - Clean in a spiritual sense from the pollution of guilt and sin – sincere, upright, devoid of evil
 - pure metals refined by fire until all impurities were removed
 - single-minded loyalty to God affects every area of life
 - Proverbs 4:23
 - Psalm 24:3-4
- Heart – 2588 – kardia
 - Seat and center of human life
 - Desires, passions, impulses
 - Pure in heart = those whose center of life has been made pure by Christ
- Shall see – 3700 – ophontai
 - See, perceive with the eyes, look at
 - Behold, contemplate
 - Show oneself before, present
 - Revelation 22:4 – not yet
 - Matthew 1:23 – already

7) Those who are in Christ show others how to have genuine peace.

- Peacemakers – 1518 – eirentoioi
 - Only in Matthew 5:9
 - Make peace
 - Peace = completeness and wholeness in every area of life
 - The one who having received the peace of God in his own heart, now brings that same peace to others
 - No simply one who helps others make peace but one who spreads the good news of peace with God which He experienced
- Called – 2564 – klethesontai
 - Call, name
 - To be regarded as, accounted as

- Sons – 5207 – uioi
 - Sons of God – those whom God loves and cherishes as their Father
- 8) Those who are in Christ joyfully suffer for their faith.
 - Persecuted ones – 1377 – dediogmenoi
 - Pursued, persecuted
 - Pursued with repeated acts of enmity, with earnestness and diligence
 - They reproach you -3679 – oneidosin
 - Reproach, revile, disparage, defame
 - Asail with abusive words
 - Rejoice 5436- chairete
 - Literally – joy to you!
 - Be glad – 21 – agalliaithe
 - Literally leap much
 - To leap with joy, to show one’s joy by leaping and skipping, denoting excessive joy and delight
 - When combined with chairete = rejoice exceedingly!

Conclusion –

- You might be thinking, “Oh no, I have wasted my life up to this point pursuing God in the totally wrong way.” But good news, you have not heard what it takes to find the right track!
- "Even **though** you are on **the right track** - you will get run over if you just sit there" - Will Rogers
- What will you do with this revolutionary teaching from the God of the universe?