

# The Beatitudes – Pentecost Pointers

- I. Introduction:
  - a. Beatitudes:
    - i. Most regard:
      - 1. Maxims to print on calendars
      - 2. Mottos to hang on the wall
      - 3. Rules of behavior – Regulate human conduct
      - 4. Panacea for all social ills
    - ii. But really a doctrinal declaration
- II. Context of the beatitudes
  - a. (Matt 4:23) – Preaching the ‘gospel of the kingdom’
  - b. (Matt 7:28) – The Multitude astonished at ‘his doctrine’
    - i. Doctrine of Christ
    - ii. Sermon on the mount in its entirety is the embodiment of the principles of the kingdom that Jesus Christ had announced that he had established
  - c. (Mark 1:14,15) Kingdom at hand – Near – no Postponement
    - i. Kingdom – Reign = Reign of Heaven
    - ii. (Luke 17:20-21) – No geographical location / could not be surveyed – Spiritual Kingdom
      - 1. (Zech 2:2-4) Vast Kingdom – Without Walls
  - d. Beatitudes – Synopsis of the gospel – Pentecost Pointers
    - i. Pointing to the kingdom that was to be established on Pentecost
    - ii. (Mark 9:1) – Some stand that will see the kingdom come with power
      - 1. (Acts 1:8) Wait to receive the Spirit – Power would come with the Spirit
      - 2. (Acts 2:1-4) Came on the Day of Pentecost
  - e. Preliminary Principles
    - i. Jesus came into this world to establish a spiritual kingdom – reign of heaven in the heart – Kingdom within you.
    - ii. (John 1:29) Sin of the world – Sin nor Sins
      - 1. Sins – Mistakes / transgressions
      - 2. Sin – Barrier between God and Man
    - iii. Jesus had come to inaugurate a new covenant
      - 1. (Luke 5:36-39) – Didn’t build a covenant on the old – Totally new
      - 2. Needed to get away from the old customs
- III. (Matt 5:3) “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
  - a. Who are ‘poor in spirit’? – What sense does the kingdom of heaven belong to them?
    - i. Humble person?

- ii. Represents one who recognizes that his own knowledge and wisdom could not guide him – Needs guidance – Would accept the teaching of the Master – will lead them into the Kingdom
  - b. (Jer 10:23-24) – Not in man to direct our steps
    - i. (Ps 37:23)
    - ii. (Ps 119:116-117)
  - c. (Isa 35:8)
    - i. Wayfaring – One not acquainted with the territory – Fool – One who can't guide themselves
      - 1. (1 Cor 3:18-19) (1 Cor 2:1-6)
  - d. Meaning of 'poor in spirit' one who would lay down his human wisdom and accept the teaching of Christ to guide him into the Kingdom
    - i. Pentecost pointer
- IV. (Matt 5:4) "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."
  - i. Mourning – not grief – not adversity – not a consolatory passage
  - b. Connects with John's announcement, "Behold the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."
    - i. Mourning over the sinful state of mankind.
  - c. Parallel
    - i. (Matthew 11:28-30)
      - 1. Labor - Mourn
      - 2. Rest – Remission of Sins
      - 3. Comfort – Pardon
  - d. Comfort – good news – Gospel
  - e. Gospel preview – Pentecost Pointer – Remedy for sin was first offered to all mankind
- V. (Matt 5:5) "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."
  - a. Meek –
    - i. enduring injury with patience and without resentment : MILD
    - ii. deficient in spirit and courage : SUBMISSIVE
    - iii. not violent or strong : MODERATE
  - b. Meek doesn't mean – not courageous or one that allows others to walk all over them.
  - c. Meek means the ability to endure through injuries or trials with patience
    - i. The captain at the helm of a ship in the storm at sea; the wild waves lash against the vessel, but the captain stands at the helm of the ship and guides it steadily through the storm.
    - ii. The meek man is one who is steady in the storm
  - d. Meekness of Moses
    - i. (Numbers 12:3)
      - 1. Spoken of a man that committed murder
      - 2. In a fit of anger destroyed the tablets
      - 3. Burnt the golden idol, ground it up, poured the power into water and made the people drink it
    - ii. Yet in spite of these facts – Considered to be the meekest man in the all the earth.

- iii. (Ex 18:13-18) – Endure these afflictions without thought of himself – self-denial
    - e. What did Jesus mean in this beatitude?
      - i. Jesus knew of the oppressions of the Roman Empire and oppositions of the heathen world – oppositions from their own flesh and blood – Jews
        - 1. Completely surrounded by opposition and hostilities
      - ii. Instead of being subdued by the oppositions – meek man will overcome - Fill the whole earth with the teaching of Christ – Thus inherit the earth with the teaching of their Master.
        - 1. (Isa 11:9-10)
        - 2. (Hab 2:14)
        - 3. (Matt 24:31) – Angels sent to the four winds of the earth
          - a. Angels – emissaries – carried the gospel message to every part of the inhabited earth
    - f. The Lord was anticipating the expansion of the gospel all over this earth – universal sway of his kingdom in all the world
      - i. (Matt 28:19)
      - ii. (Mark 16:15,16)
- VI. (Matt 5:6) “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”
  - a. Righteousness – Justification
    - i. (Romans 1:16-17)
      - 1. Not in reference to God’s Character
      - 2. (Rom 10:3) – Jews were ignorant of God’s righteousness
    - ii. God’s righteousness is something that God does for man through the gospel
    - iii. The gospel reveals how God makes man righteous – How He justifies sinners
      - 1. Two ways a garment can be clean:
        - a. Never have been soiled
        - b. Be Washed
      - 2. Two ways one can be righteous
        - a. Innocence - Never sin
        - b. Having sinned forgiven
    - iv. (Matt 5:20) – our righteousness must exceed in order to enter into this Kingdom – Justification – through the Son
  - b. One must hunger and thirst
    - i. God doesn’t just put righteousness on anyone – One must long for it – must want it.
      - 1. Can not force Christianity on anyone – not coercive, but persuasive.
      - 2. One must realize his state in sin in comparison with the blessing of salvation

- c. Hungering and thirsting for righteousness is the inward desire for what the gospel will do – Obeying it brings one into the full measure of pardon and justification
- VII. (Matt 5:7) “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.”
- a. Evangelistic Beatitude
    - i. Every one of us are the subjects of God’s mercy and no one can be saved without it
    - ii. We show mercy when we teach others and bring them to God’s mercy
  - b. (Titus 3:5)
    - i. Washing of Regeneration – Baptism – Christian Baptism
    - ii. According to his mercy – When God saves a person by baptism, who has believed and repented, it is according to his mercy – it is according to God’s merciful plan.
  - c. We show mercy when we show others how to be saved by the mercy of God.
- VIII. (Matt 5:8) “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”
- a. Not in the sense of Chastity and Lust – virtue and vice
  - b. (Luke 11:34) – Jesus defines this ‘pure heart’ in this illustration
    - i. Eye is single – full of light
      - 1. Pure vision is single vision
      - 2. Single vision is seeing straight
    - ii. If the eye is not single – doesn’t see straight – Body full of darkness because of this condition
  - c. (Eph 1:18)
    - i. Enlighten heart is one that sees the truth – knowing heart – heart of understanding
  - d. Pure in heart – A heart that understands, the knowing, the enlightened – comprehends the truth
  - e. Only by seeing the truth can a person come into the kingdom where he sees God
    - i. (John 3:3) see – enter in
  - f. Pure heart knows the truth – obeys it, enters the kingdom – sees God
  - g. Points to Pentecost – gospel preview
- IX. (Matt 5:9) “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”
- a. Not speaking of the good work of a mediator – does not refer to arbitration
  - b. It connects John’s announcement (John 1:29)
    - i. (Rom 10:15) – speaking of those making peace with God
    - ii. (Acts 10:36)
    - iii. (Eph 2:14-18)
  - c. Who are the peacemakers? Those that make peace – the disciples of Christ – Those that have been reconciled and tell others how to make peace with God.
- X. (Matt 5:10) “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

- a. The test
  - i. Endure every obstacle
  - ii. Endure the persecution for you calling
    - 1. In Family
    - 2. In Business
    - 3. In Community
    - 4. In Society
  - iii. That is the test of having the kingdom

XI. Conclusion

- a. Beatitudes eight gospel principles that find their culmination in the Great Commission
  - i. (Mark 16:15,16)
- b. Live up to these Beatitudes be saved today