



LESSONS FOR MATTHEW 5:1 – 7:29 // JANUARY 18, 2015

5:1-12 The Beatitudes

- This is not a way for salvation, but shows ways of **righteous** living for those in Christ (meaning those who have repented 3:2 / 4:17)
- “Blessed” means happy
- These verses describe the inner-qualities of a Christ-follower
- The blessings are future-focused
- Contrast these qualities with the Pharisees; they think they have already achieved **righteousness**
- These verses become more powerful when contrasted with their opposites

QUALITY

PROMISE

OPPOSITE QUALITY

Poor in Spirit 5:3

Kingdom of Heaven

Rich // Having abundance

1. This person has little, so they must depend totally on God
2. Has a physical AND spiritual need
3. This person is very aware of their need
4. Those with abundance might not be aware of their need

Mourn 5:4

Comfort

Happy

1. This person mourns over their sin!
2. Jesus brings comfort because He is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)

Meek/Gentle 5:5

Inherit the earth

Proud / Rebellious / Independent Aggressive / Preoccupied with self

1. This quality does not mean “weak”
2. It means **submissiveness** and obedience to God
3. We are humbled in God’s greatness (He is great and I am small)
4. The promise to “inherit the earth” is both present and future
 - a. Present: They are content with what they have
 - b. Future: Romans 8:17 “Heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ”

Hunger & thirst for righteousness 5:6

Satisfaction

Full

1. You are what you eat! (:
2. We should feed on scripture
3. Believers joyously expect to be filled by Christ, not the world
4. We depend on His **righteousness**, not our own

Merciful 5:7

Receive mercy

Unforgiving

1. Mercy = not getting a punishment that you deserve
2. Being merciful does not mean you tolerate sin
3. Mercy shows compassion on a sinner, because sin’s weight is so terrible
4. Mercy is an action (a practice!) for someone in (spiritual) need
5. Pharisees were harsh—showed little mercy
6. Mercy always includes forgiveness

QUALITY

PROMISE

OPPOSITE QUALITY

Pure in heart 5:8

1. A pure heart has one motive and purpose
2. This person's whole being is set to love God and serve Him and others
3. Jewish word for "heart" includes mind and emotions (the things no one else can see)
4. Pure in heart means "those who are right with God"
 - a. We do this through repentance (justification)
 - b. "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life." John 5:24

See God

Love many things (distracted)

Peacemakers 5:9

Be called sons of God

Uncaring for others

- Peace only comes through being reconciled to God through Jesus
- When you bring others to become at peace with God, you are a peacemaker
 - Evangelism (sharing that Jesus is the only way to get right with God)
- 2 Corinthians 5:19-20
- John 14:27

Persecuted for righteousness

Kingdom of Heaven

Looks like the world

1. This gives us joy because we share in Christ's sufferings
 - a. 1 Peter 4:13
 - b. 2 Corinthians 1:5
2. Our reward is in heaven

5:13-16 Salt & Light

- This is the calling for those who are **justified**
- Salt
 - ...hinders corruption
 - ...prevents decay
 - ...heals
 - ...causes thirst
 - Salt only does its job when it is in food
 - Spiritual application for salt: We should bring the thing we have (the knowledge of how to have peace with God through Jesus) to the salt-less world
- Light
 - ...shows us that the world is dark (because it is without Christ)
 - John 8:12
 - We must take the light (the truth) into the darkness
- This calling to be salt and light is a command, not a suggestion

5:17-48 The Law and Us

- Christ's relationship with the Old Testament
 - 5:17 gives full authority of the Law
 - 5:17 also shows that ONLY CHRIST can satisfy its requirements (remember the temptations in the wilderness shows that Jesus is a WORTHY Savior)
- We totally rely on Christ in order to be right with God
- Compare with Pharisees; they relied on their own works
 - Here Jesus is correcting the Pharisee's false understanding
 - Pharisees were outwardly focused
 - Jesus teaches here that God cares about internal (heart/mind)
- **Correcting Jewish understanding (SIN IS INWARD, BEFORE OUTWARD)**
 - MURDER 5:21-26
 - Jesus shows the sin is actually **anger** 5:22
 - The person you are angry with was created by God
 - The only thing we should get angry with is SIN
 - The remedy for anger 5:23-26
 - Forgiveness
 - God has forgive you greatly—you can forgive others
 - Remember the unmerciful servant? Matthew 18:21-35
 - ADULTRY 5:27-30
 - Jesus shows the sin is actually **lust** 5:28
 - The remedy for lust
 - Flee! "Pluck your eye out" is extreme, but necessary to avoid sin!
 - Remember, Jesus is correcting us from simply keeping pure physically; we must also be pure in our hearts and minds
 - DIVORCE 5:31-32
 - God's design for marriage is for a lifetime
 - Anything short of that is a sin
 - Exception: cheating
 - The remedy for divorce
 - Stay married and faithful to your husband/wife
 - If you got divorced, ask for forgiveness
 - OATHS 5:33-37
 - If you have to prove your statement with an oath, it means you have not been truthful or trustworthy other times
 - Example:
 - Mom: "Did you clean your room?"
 - You: "Yes! I swear I did!"
 - Why do you need to swear that you did?
 - If you always tell the truth, people can trust your simple answer.
 - Remedy: 5:37
 - RETALIATION 5:38-42
 - Personal examples:
 - Assault 5:38

- Jesus warns against fighting back
 - Self-defense must be in love, not anger/revenge
 - Remember, we are discussing inward condition of our heart/mind
- A Lawsuit 5:40
 - To resist is a matter of love
 - Showing Christ
 - Impressment 5:41
 - If you are required (by an authority) to do something, go above and beyond to do it
 - Begging 5:42
 - You *do not* need to give everything
 - You *do* need to give to everyone
 - Borrowing 5:42
 - Be compassionate
 - Neighbors & Enemies 5:43-48
 - Who is your neighbor? Everyone
 - Who is your enemy? Those who are not right with God
 - How do we treat them? Pray for them
 - Be a peacemaker!

6:1-7:6 How to Live

- Give to the needy 6:2-4
 - Not for others to see, but for God
 - This keeps with Jesus' theme of inward > outward
- Prayer 6:5-15
 - Why do we pray?
 - Because we have a need
 - Through prayer, God provides for our needs
 - Spiritual
 - Physical
 - We can see this with miracles
 - This should be in secret, because we are trusting God to provide
 - Making a big deal out loud shows that you are looking for something from the people who are hearing your prayer

How should we pray? The Lord's Prayer 6:9-13

- v.9 "Our Father in heaven"
 - This sets WHO and WHERE
 - Now we are clear and ready!
- v.9 "Hallowed be your name"
 - His name is HOLY (set apart; sacred; unlike any other)
 - Do not take His name in vain // Do not take His name lightly
- v.10 "Your kingdom come"
 - He is our KING
 - We should **submit** to Him

- v.10 “Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven”
 - We need His help for this
 - Jesus shows by example: “Not my will, but Yours be done.”
 - This puts God’s authority above ours
 - This is important to establish before giving requests
 - v.11 “Give us this day our daily bread”
 - God takes care of our needs (physical and spiritual)
 - “I am the bread of life” John 6:32-59
 - v.12 “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors”
 - Whoa—what did we just say?!
 - Do you forgive others well?
 - Do you want to be forgiven the way you forgive others?
 - Someone’s sin against you is nothing compared to your sin against God
 - v.13 “Lead us not into temptation”
 - I do not seek to be tested
 - But when I am, I turn to the ONLY one who can rescue me
- *Some manuscripts have the doxology “For yours is the kingdom...”
- This ends our prayer with adoration of the one who answers our prayers and meets our needs

CONTINUING: **How should we live?**

Fasting 6:16-18

- Notice that Jesus says, “when you fast...”
- He did not say, “if you fast...”
- This means we are to fast
- So what is it? Denying yourself a pleasure in order to gain something spiritually
- Fasting as physical AND spiritual element
- If you let people know you’re fasting, your reward is in their response
 - This defeats the purpose that you began the fast!
- Remember: inward > outward

Treasures in Heaven 6:19-24

- Two kinds of treasure: Earthly and Heavenly
- You can’t have both at the same time 6:21
- Examples
 - The eye is the lamp to the body 6:22-23
 - If you don’t see clearly, you might make wrong decisions
 - This implies poor judgment
 - What are your eyes fixed on?
 - You cannot serve two masters 6:24
 - You cannot serve both God and money
 - Word “serve” shows the one to whom you are loyal
 - In which one do you place your trust
 - Like above, you cannot trust both

Do not worry 6:25-34

- “Therefore” or “For this reason”
- Understand this in light His current teachings
- Conclusion: When you have Christ, all your needs are met (spiritually!)
 - But what about physically?
 - Jesus gives examples

7:1-29 **Life in Christ**

- Christian conduct in relationships
 - Judging others 7:1-5
 - Judge = condemn
 - We are not perfect (which is why we need Jesus!)
 - The Father is the only judge
 - Results of disobeying this commandment
 - To judge others is to suffer judgment 7:2
 - To judge is to be blind to your own faults
 - 7:3, 7:4, 7:5
 - Condemning others makes it impossible for us to help take out the speck in their eye
 - The log in our eye = lack of love for people
 - Do not give to dogs 7:6
 - Use Proverbs 26:11 to interpret meaning
 - Peter uses this verse to describe people who outwardly commit to Christ but do not live for Him 2 Peter 3:1-2
 - Paul teaches in Phil 3:2 that “dogs” are false teachers
 - Jesus describes “dogs” as those who are outside of the kingdom in Matthew 15:26
 - Ask, Seek, Knock 7:7-12
 - This is a three-fold aspect of prayer
 - ASK
 - James 4:2 // James 1:5-8
 - Be persistent
 - SEEK
 - This shows urgency
 - God is faithful to answer
 - KNOCK
 - This implies both dependence and effort
 - Our confidence: Rev 3:20
 - Narrow and wide gates 7:13-14
 - Compare with Isaiah 53:6
 - We are all going our own way
 - But Jesus shows there is only ONE narrow way

- John 10:1-18
- A tree and its fruit 7:15-23
 - Don't be fooled by words 7:21
 - Don't be fooled by actions 7:22
 - Who is a true believer? 7:23
 - Jesus knows who are the ones who belong to Him
- Wise and foolish builder 7:24-29
 - Those who hear Jesus' words and act are wise—building a solid foundation
 - The opposite is also true

Main Points

- Jesus is more concerned with our hearts/minds
 - That is the place where sin begins
 - Internal > External
- A true, trusting relationship with Jesus results in faithful obedience
- It's not simply knowledge, it's commitment