

Sunday Morning Message

July 14, 2019

Blessed – Part One

Topics – Sermon on the Mount; Beattitudes

Text – Matthew 5:1 - 12

Congregational Reading – Matthew 5:3 - 12

Introduction

Sometimes when I ask a person how they are doing, they reply, "I am blessed." That is a tremendous truth, especially for saved people today, especially for people in a place like America where we enjoy freedom and so many other wonderful blessings of the Lord.

The word, "blessed" (μακάριος – *Makarios*) means, "Oh how happy." If there is any people on Planet Earth who should be happy it is God's people. We have a lot to be happy about.

Illustration – Dr. Gray – "tell your face."

In the Bible, there are thirty-one Beatitudes, or "blessed are" statements throughout both the Old and the New Testaments, which describe certain conditions that will produce happiness. Today, the world is desperately searching for things that will make them happy. They are in pursuit of happiness.

Sometimes they pursue happiness through possessions.

Sometimes they pursue happiness through pleasure.

Sometimes they pursue happiness through perversion.

But, real, lasting happiness and joy can only come from God.

About one-third of all of the Beatitudes (or "blessed are" statements) in the Bible are found here in Matthew 5, in the Sermon on the Mount. Three of the Beatitudes found in the Sermon on the Mount are repeated in a similar form in Luke 6, in a similar message that Jesus preached that is known as the Sermon on the Plain. Luke's gospel also contains five other "blessed are" statements besides three that Jesus gave them on the Sermon in the Plain. Mark's gospel does not contain any Beatitudes. John's gospel contains only one:

"Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." (John 20:29)

The Psalms contain five:

"Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him." (Psalm 2:12)

"Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah." (Psalm 84:4)

"Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times." (Psalm 106:3)

"ALEPH. Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart." (Psalm 119:1-2)

There is one Beatitude included in the Proverbs.

*"Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways."
(Proverbs 8:32)*

Paul records only one out of all fourteen of his Epistles:

"Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." (Romans 4:7-8)

In Revelation, there are three:

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." (Revelation 14:13)

"And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God." (Revelation 19:9)

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." (Revelation 22:14)

Back in the Sermon on the Mount, we see the greatest concentration of these Beatitudes, and in them, we see the same similar patterns found in the Beatitudes found in the rest of the Bible.

Read through Matthew 5

The Sermon on the Mount is found in Matthew five thru seven and contains what I call "rules for the redeemed." The principles found in the Sermon on the Mount go far beyond what was commanded in the Law of Moses. (See Matthew 5:27 – 28; 38 – 39 for examples.)

The principles in the Sermon on the Mount give us a code of conduct for a people who have been saved through faith in Christ's shed blood on the Cross of Calvary, and who are surrendered to the Will of God and filled with His Holy Spirit. These principles will someday be the rule of law in Christ's future Millennial Kingdom. The principles found in the Sermon on the Mount will not save you, but they will show you how saved people should live.

I Poor in Spirit (v. 3)

Being "poor in spirit" has to do with humility. God hates pride. Until a person realizes that he is spiritually bankrupt, he can never go to the place of blessing.

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: (1Peter 5:5 & 6)

II Mourning (v. 4)

Mourning is an outward expression of grief or sorrow. Mourning could be expressed with weeping; but was also visible in the Bible in other ways such as: rending of the clothes; cutting of the flesh; fasting; and neglect of personal appearance.

Why would Jesus want His people to mourn. He is not commanding us to mourn; but He is stating that His children while on this earth should be overcome at times by the events taking place around them:

- 1 Because of Israel's rejection of the King. Those that have gone against their leadership and received Christ would be an enemy of the state.
- 2 Because of the results of sin in this world.
- 3 Because of the vast majority that are headed for Hell. Matthew 9: 36 – 38
- 4 Because of the persecution that we should be facing here on the earth.

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. (2Timothy 3:12)

Should God's people be mourning all of the time? No; but we should be sober and serious and compassionate about the godless conditions that surround us today. However, we should rejoice and sing and praise God when we think of all that He has done for us; and all that awaits for us in Heaven. The mourners will receive the comfort that they lacked on the earth.

III Meekness (v. 5)

Meekness means strength in reserve; mildness; gentleness; humility.

Verses – Galatians 5:22 – a fruit of the Spirit

David was an example of meekness in 2 Samuel 16:5 – 14 when he didn't have Shimei put to death for cursing him and throwing stones at him and his delegation as they were leaving Jerusalem.

Moses was an example of meekness in Numbers 12:1 – 15.

- 1 Meekness will cause you to restore rather than condemn.
- 2 Meekness controls your reaction:

"Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matthew 26:53)

- 3 Meekness is seen in those when they get saved; they are taking their destiny out of their hands.

Notice that the meek will receive in the Kingdom what he did not try take by force here on the earth.

Conclusion

We have not done an exhaustive study of all of the Beatitudes, but we have seen enough to make some generalizations. Happiness is not found in any of the ways the lost world is seeking it:

Happiness is found in Surrender

"ALEPH. Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart." (Psalm 119:1-2)

Being surrendered to God means that we are separated from this world and we are submitted to His will.

Happiness is found in Suffering

"Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets. But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation. Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep. Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets." (Luke 6:22-26 KJV)

"And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name." (Acts 5:40-41)

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." (Revelation 14:13)

Happiness is found in Salvation – understanding what you have been saved from and what you have been saved to. If you are saved, you are not going to Hell.

"Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." (Romans 4:7-8)

The bottom line is that you won't be happy pursuing happiness, you can only be happy pursuing God. God is the source of true happiness and fulfillment in life.

Possessions and pleasures can't give you happiness.

The bottle won't bring you happiness.

That new job or promotion cannot give you happiness.

That pet sin will not help you; it will only bring you misery.

Happiness only comes from God, and it begins with a relationship with Him. Do you know Him?