

The Beatitudes – Kingdom Character

Matthew 5:1-12

The Beatitudes

- Character of kingdom citizens
 - Seven – attitude & actions
 - Two – in circumstances resulting from citizenship
- Blessed is not simply happy, fortunate
 - Deep spiritual wealth that exists as a gift from God when we are in fellowship with Him
 - Being in God's favor with spiritual blessings
 - Only in the kingdom of heaven, the church that belongs to Christ

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”

- Poverty of spirit, not physical circumstance
- Completely insufficient alone and in utter dependence upon God for direction
- Contrary to:
 - a spirit of self-sufficiency, pride, and independence
- Not new:
 - Jeremiah 10:23
- Taught and demonstrated:
 - Luke 18:9-14
 - Acts 2:37
- Contrasted:
 - Matthew 23:5-11
 - Revelation 3:17
- Blessing from God:
 - citizens in the indestructible kingdom of heaven, the church, wherein are all spiritual blessings

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted”

- To have deep sorrow, to bewail, lament, to mourn for
- Mourning about the sin we've committed
- Contrary to:
 - take pleasure in or feel at ease in sin, not like sin rebuked, compromise with sin, rationalize, justify
- Not new:
 - Psalm 51:17
- Taught and demonstrated:
 - Ezra 10:1
 - 2 Corinthians 7:10
- Contrasted:
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:12
- Blessing from God:
 - comfort in the forgiveness of sin, removal of guilt

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth”

- Inner strength of character that yields to God without resistance, dispute, and contention
- Humbly submitting to God
- Contrary to:
 - Self-will, self-assertion, self-interest
- Not new:
 - Psalm 110:3
- Taught and demonstrated:
 - Acts 9:6...26:19-20
 - Galatians 2:20
- Contrasted:
 - Acts 6:8-10ff
- Blessing from God:
 - citizenship in the kingdom with all its wealth and bounty

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth”

- Meekness is necessary in order to...
 - Receive teaching
 - James 1:21
 - Teach others
 - 2 Timothy 2:25
 - Receive correction
 - 2 Timothy 3:16
 - Restore others
 - Galatians 6:1
 - Answer those who defame you
 - 1 Peter 3:15

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled”

- Intense longing, strong desire for
- Like that of a starving man
- Contrary to:
 - Apathy, indifference, “whatever”
- Not new:
 - Psalm 1:2
- Taught and demonstrated:
 - Mark 12:37
 - Acts 10:33 and Acts 2:41-42
 - 1 Peter 2:1
- Contrasted:
 - John 6:26-27
- Blessing from God:
 - filled, complete satisfaction, justification, the forgiveness of sins