

The Beatitudes – Kingdom Character

Matthew 5:1-12

The Beatitudes

- Character of kingdom citizens
- Last week:
 - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
 - Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted
 - Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth
 - Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy”

- Pity, goodwill toward the miserable and afflicted, with a desire to relieve them
- Results in kindness and action toward those who are in trouble
- Contrary to:
 - Unkindness, unforgiveness, indifference toward those in need
- Not new:
 - Exodus 22:21
- Taught and demonstrated:
 - Luke 10:25-37
 - Matthew 18:35, 27, 33
- Contrasted:
 - Matthew 23:14, 23
- Blessing from God:
 - obtaining the mercy of God

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy”

- The merciful spirit will...
 - Seek to save the lost
 - Ephesians 3:9
 - Matthew 9:36-38
 - Forgive
 - Ephesians 4:32
 - Have compassion on others
 - Colossians 3:12
 - Be slow to make accusation
 - 1 Corinthians 13:7
 - Be ready to help
 - Galatians 6:10

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God”

- The heart includes our intellect, our will, our conscience, and our emotions
- Single, clean, clear, unsoiled, genuine, sincere, free from pollution of evil or motive
- Contrary to:
 - Duplicity, hypocrisy, impurity, evil
- Not new:
 - Psalm 24:3-4
- Taught and demonstrated:
 - Luke 16:13
 - 1 Peter 1:22
 - Philippians 4:8
- Contrasted:
 - John 5:44
 - Mark 7:20-23
- Blessing from God:
 - seeing God, having fellowship with Him

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God”

- Peace involves contentment, tranquility, absence of hatred, harmony, reconciliation between separated parties
- Peacemakers seek to bring men into a state of reconciliation with God; they also desire reconciliation with men but not at the expense of truth
- Contrary to:
 - Bitterness, division, strife
- Not new:
 - Psalm 34:14
- Taught and demonstrated:
 - Romans 5:1; 10:15
 - Matthew 5:24; Matthew 18:15-20
 - Hebrews 12:14
 - Romans 12:18; 14:19
- Contrasted:
 - James 3:13-16
 - Proverbs 6:19; 26:21
 - Romans 12:19
- Blessing from God:
 - called the sons of God

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

- Ridiculed, harassed, hunted, driven out
- Contrary to:
 - No cost, no suffering, loved by all
- Not new:
 - Acts 7:51-53
- Taught and demonstrated:
 - 2 Timothy 3:12
 - 1 Peter 4:14-16
 - 1 Peter 2:19-25; 3:9
- Contrasted:
 - John 15:19
 - Luke 6:26
- Blessing from God:
 - citizens in the indestructible kingdom of heaven