

The Beatitudes - Part 2

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II. Outlook makes all the difference in the Christian life. (Matthew 5)

A. Attitude makes outlook.

1. I used to think I was out of the will of God when in trouble, but now I see that I'm often in trouble while in the will of God.
2. Jesus was preaching and healing many as great crowds followed him so he taught them the beatitudes.
3. These are blessed teachings.
4. Contentment and serenity depends on one's outlook and attitude and frame of mind.

B. The first several beatitudes deal with our relationship with God and the latter group of beatitudes deal with our relationship with each other.

1. We discussed the first one on the blessedness of spiritual poverty.
2. These have been emptied of all self-reliance and have come to the absolute end of their rope.
3. Probably most of us have not learned that yet.
4. Yet without total reliance on God we can do nothing.
5. We like to think that the blessed are those who are self sufficient, who can get things done themselves.
6. We need to admit that we can do nothing by ourselves.
7. I need a refuge, don't you? I am a beggar.
8. Blind Bartimaeus expected to receive something from God.
9. Are you expecting to receive anything from the Lord today?
10. David cried out to God for help, not because he had done everything right, not because he had put in 6 hours of Bible study, etc. but because he was poor and needy. (Psalm 86:1)

C. The second beatitude is blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted.

1. Mourning indicates sorrow in the heart and takes possession of the whole person.
2. In the world this is weakness.

3. To many Christians, this is also a weakness.
4. We think the happy are blessed and if we are not happy, something must be wrong.
5. But Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
6. Paul had continual sorrow in his heart over the unbelief of the Jewish people. (Romans 9:2)
7. Paul was sorrowful yet always rejoicing; both exist at the same time. (2 Corinthians 6:10)
8. In fact, the person who knows nothing of deep sorrow has something missing from their life.
9. Jesus learned obedience through suffering.
10. We mourn over several things.
 - a. Our own sin.
 1. We intend to tell the truth but sometimes deceive.
 2. How much does sin trouble us?
 3. David said as he covered his sin his body wasted away. (Psalm 32; 51)
 - b. We also mourn over the lost.
 1. Paul had continual sorrow over the Jews.
 2. Jeremiah's eye affected his heart over the devastation of Jerusalem. (Lamentations 3:51)
 3. Rivers of water ran down David's eyes because people would not keep the law. (Psalm 119)
 4. Funerals are better than a banquet because death is the end of all living.
 5. I once went on a trip and someone prayed I would get a tender heart, which bothered me because I felt Navigators were tough men and women. But some things happened during that trip making me realize the need of a tender heart.
 6. Suffering and success go together.
 - i. If you are suffering and not succeeding that means someone will succeed after you.

- ii. If you are succeeding and not suffering that means that someone probably suffered before you and you're benefiting from their labor.

D. Confess to the Lord:

1. I confess that I am often motivated by the desire for comfort.
2. I am molded by the world around me.
3. I recognize that there is a time and a place for comfort and for suffering; please change my attitudes according to your will.
5. In Jesus' name.