

The Greatest Sermon Ever Preached: The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) #1

“What does it mean to Blessed?” (Matthew 5:1-16)

Introduction

*The Sermon on the Mount through the Centuries: “When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him and he began to teach THEM....When Jesus finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching because he taught as one who had authority, unlike the teachers of the law.”

*The Affirmations and The Challenges of The Sermon on the Mount

*The Heart of the Christian Life and Spirituality

*The Divine Conspiracy (Dallas Willard)

I. Jesus’s First and Last Word...Blessed are...

A. What does it mean to blessed? (Hebrew *ashr, barak* or *hesed* (God’s loving kindness)/Greek *makarios* = to receive God’s grace/benefit

B. Who are the blessed in the eyes of God? Who are the blessed in the eyes of culture?

American Culture’s Beatitudes (Doug Webster)

“Blessed are those who believe in themselves for they will be successful. Blessed are those who are in touch with their feelings for they will feel good. Blessed are the self-assertive for they will get ahead. Blessed are the open-minded for they will be respected. Blessed are the tolerant for they will be accepted. Blessed are those who are in good physical condition for they will be envied. Blessed are the sensitive and fun loving for they will find intimacy. Blessed are the popular for theirs is the world.” The pursuit of happiness as articulated by our culture and by Jesus Christ are two radically different journeys.

II. The Beatitudes...The Blessings of God Declared by Jesus Christ

A. Blessed are the Poor (in spirit), for theirs is The Kingdom of Heaven/God.

B. Blessed are those who Mourn/Grieve, for they will be comforted.

C. Blessed are the Meek/Humble, for they will inherit the earth.

D. Blessed are those who Hunger/Thirst for Righteousness, for they will be filled.

E. Blessed are the Merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

F. Blessed are the Pure in Heart, for they will see God.

G. Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.

H. Blessed are the Persecuted, for theirs is The Kingdom of Heaven.

I. Blessed are the Insulted, Persecuted and Lied about because they follow me, for they can rejoice and be glad because of what await you in heaven and you share the same experience of the prophets of God.

III. Salt of the Earth and Light of The World (5:13-16)

A. Salt= The Seasoning of Life and Preservation of the World

B. Light = The Way in the Darkness. The Revelation. The City on a Hill. A Lamp...cannot be hidden, gives light of everyone in the house, shines before others...

*****People may see your good deeds and glorify you Father in Heaven!**

Conclusions and Applications

In the Weeks Ahead

June 3rd Jesus, The Law and The Gospel (Matthew 5:17-48)

June 10th True Christian Spirituality (Matthew 6:1-18)

June 17th Don't Worry...Be Blessed (Matthew 6:19-7:12)

June 24th The Way, The Truth and The Life (Matthew 7:13-23)

July 1st Being Wise in the Eyes of God (Matthew 7:24-29)

Recommended Reading

***The Sermon on the Mount: The Message of the Kingdom* by R Kent Hughes**

***The Sermon on the Mount* by Scot McKnight**

***Jesus' Plan for a New World* by Richard Rohr**

***The Message of the Sermon on the Mount* by John Stott**

***The Easy Yoke* by Doug Webster**

***Divine Conspiracy* by Dallas Willard**