



The Good News

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The Beatitudes

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We can only imagine what it must have looked like as Jesus went up onto a high hill and sat down to teach. We can only see in our mind's eye as hundreds of disciples flocked to where Jesus was teaching to hear what He had to say. We can only speculate as to what the weather was like or what the mood was as Jesus gave what we call the "Sermon on the Mount". But regarding what was taught we do not have to imagine or speculate as we have an account of what He said as He addressed the multitudes.

In **Matt. 5:3-12** we have what man has labeled as "the **Beatitudes**". This term is not a Biblical term but, from its definition, we learn that it's an accurate way of describing this segment of the sermon. The term "**Beatitude**" means "**supreme blessedness; exalted happiness**", which is appropriate given that Jesus' focus in these ten verses of Scripture involves how we can obtain this "supreme blessedness". Through these verses, Jesus says, "**Blessed are...**" regarding the distinct characteristics that are necessary from one that is seeking to please God. There are a total of eight different characteristics that Jesus covers. Consider the following:

- 1) "**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.**" – This is the state of humility needed in order to submit to God.
- 2) "**Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.**" – This is the state of understanding that sin has separated me from my God and inspires me to repent.
- 3) "**Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.**" – This is the state of allowing myself to be brought under control of God through His word.

- 4) "**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.**" – This is the state of craving, not just the knowledge of how to be righteous, but the state of being righteous itself.
- 5) "**Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.**" – This is the state of having a compassionate heart, caring more for others than myself.
- 6) "**Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**" – This is the state of having clean thoughts and pure emotions in my effort to please God.
- 7) "**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.**" – This is the state of seeking peaceful solutions to issues that come along, not seeking negative confrontations.
- 8) "**Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.**" – This is the state of being so convicted and devoted to God and Christ that I am willing to sacrifice my physical well-being in order to stand for His truth.

All of these characteristics require some action on our part to obtain. These will not necessarily come naturally. We must work at having the character that God wants from us, and if we obtain it we will be blessed. Do we have these characteristics this morning? Let's open our Bibles as we study this further in our lesson this morning.