

SOTM 9 – The Beatitudes Are The Foundation

Before going further in the Sermon On The Mount, we need to understand the importance of the Beatitudes. They are the foundation upon which all the rest of His teachings build. These are the "attitudes" we must "be" in order to live as His disciples in this fallen world. To the measure we have not allowed the Holy Spirit to conform us to these same attitudes, we also will not reap the benefits of the kingdom that Jesus describes later on in the sermon. What sort of benefits? Looking ahead in this sermon Jesus teaches on:

1. Letting your light shine in this dark world. Will it shine bright or dim? Or at all?
 - a. Can those living in darkness see the light of Christ in you?
 - b. Is there a clear and unmistakable difference between your life and the world?
2. The ability to walk in fulfillment of the law. Will Love dominate your walk? Or will your walk always be dominated by selfishness and unrestrained flesh?
 - a. Uncontrolled Anger.
 - b. Sexual Lust, immorality, fornication and adultery.
 - c. Drunkenness, drug abuse, gluttony.
 - d. Divorce or a long and happy marriage?
 - e. These "attitudes" determine which.
3. Built on the foundation of these "attitudes," your WORD becomes like God's Word. Unmovable, set in stone. Your Word is your bond and all who know you say your Word can be trusted. You have become like your heavenly Father and do not lie.
4. Revenge becomes a stranger to you. These "attitudes" replace hatred with love. You become like God and you ... genuinely ... love your enemies. You lay down your life for them the way He laid down His life for you.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

5. Giving to the poor. These attitudes cause you to become a "giver of help" in life, not always being the one who needs to be "receiving help" from others. You will find it is true that "it is more blessed to give than receive."
6. Answered prayer. Have you ever wondered why more prayers are not answered? Thank God for the ones that are answered, but what about all of those that are not? I cannot imagine a prayer of Jesus not being answered. Can you? These Beatitudes were His "attitude" and they were the foundation for His whole life. The apostle John plainly tells us a primary reason why our prayers are ... or are not ... answered:
1 John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

- a. First: We keep His commandments (Love is the fulfilling of the law. Love must be fueling your "attitude" in life or you most certainly will not be keeping his commandment to "love one another as I have loved you.")
 - b. Second: We do those things that are pleasing in His sight. These "attitudes" absolutely determine whether we are doing those things that are pleasing in his sight.
 - i. Without these attitudes being active in our lives, is it any wonder there is so little answered prayer? Our rebellion against His nature of love within us destroys our own confidence when we pray. Without that confidence within us, there is no genuine faith. Our rebellion against these "attitudes" destroys our own confidence that our prayers will be heard and answered.
7. Fasting becomes just another religious exercise that accomplishes no dominion over the flesh without these attitudes. Muslims fast. Many other religions fast. For them, it only strengthens the fallen willpower of man. Only Christians can truly mortify the flesh through fasting, because it allows the new man in Christ to take dominion over the flesh. Otherwise it is simply unregenerate man exercising natural discipline over fallen flesh. That only strengthens the pride of the unregenerate man. It is like the T-Shirt I saw a man wearing at the gym that said, *"I would flex but I like this shirt."*
8. Become free from anxiety and worry regarding provision. Not without these attitudes. God wants to be our provider and He has made "cast in stone" promises of provision to those who have these "attitudes." All of those promises hinge on this:

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

- a. The "kingdom of God" is not your first priority in life unless these "attitudes" "be" your attitudes. This was the mindset of Jesus, and this is the mindset of His true disciples.
 - b. "Lord, what would you have me do?" Paul asked the right question for everybody who "seeks first the kingdom."
 - c. Put on the breastplate of righteousness. Mortify the flesh. Walk as the child of light you are.
 - d. If this "be" your "attitude," Your needs will be met or God will have to destroy Himself because ... God cannot lie!
9. "Judge not" stops being a copout. With these "attitudes," you come to the place where you judge yourself, remove the beams and the motes from your own eye, so you can then help others remove the beams and the motes from their lives. You HELP people by first judging yourself, repenting and walking free ... so you can help them become free like you became free.

10. With these "attitudes" in your life, you live in constant fellowship with God. Your "asking" lines up with the heart of God, and you receive what you ask for.
11. You come to the place where you treat all people the same way you want to be treated.
12. You become a tree with different fruit from the world on your limbs. What fruit is your life producing? If the fruit never changes, the tree never changed. A "religious" old tree is still an old tree. If the fruit habitually remains sin, the tree at its core is still sin and that's why Jesus said in the next portion:

Matthew 7:21-23 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? (23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

13. Build your house on the rock. The rock is doing His sayings. The Beatitudes are the foundation that all of His sayings are built upon. Focus on making sure you "be" a person with these "attitudes."

One more time I must stress ... the good news is ... by God's grace you received "Christ in you" when you were born again. The SEED of His nature ... IS IN YOU! It is not a matter of you trying to BE this ... YOU ALREADY ARE THIS! This is the essence of Mustard Seed Faith. The image of Christ is in you. Worship, Prayer, Confession, and Fasting are the tools we have been given that allow the Holy Spirit to bring forth the New Man from the inside to the outside. Mustard Seed Faith allows the image of Christ to come to full measure within you.

Paul wrote his own summary of the Beatitudes:

Ephesians 4:11-32 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; (12) For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: (13) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: (14) That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; (15) But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ: (16) From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the

effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. (17) This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, (18) Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: (19) Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. (20) But ye have not so learned Christ; (21) If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: (22) That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; (23) And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; (24) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (25) Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. (26) Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: (27) Neither give place to the devil. (28) Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. (29) Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. (30) And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. (31) Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: (32) And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

What shall we do?

1. Repent of all known sin and go to 1 John 1:9 to be forgiven and restored.
2. Repent of all known rebellion against God's personal instructions to you.
 - a. Disobedience to your "blueprint."
 - b. Everything hinges on, "Lord, what will you have me do?"
3. Commit afresh to spending time in the Word of God.
 - a. If you do not eat food your natural body will become weak.
 - b. If you do not eat the Word of God, your spirit man will become weak.
4. Pray and Fast for edification and mortification to always be continuous.
5. Worship ... there is no substitute for time with HIM!
 - a. Never let "relationship" become "religion."

The Be-Not-itudes
The Opposite Of The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:2-12 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, (3) Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Thank You for paying for all "my" sins and saving "me" from hell. "I" want to thank You for helping "me" make all "my" dreams come true. Thank You for making "me" a success in life. "I" have many things "I" want to accomplish in life and "I" appreciate the fact You have chosen to be "my" helper to make "my" dreams come true.

(4) Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

"I" am happy and blessed that You have chosen to make "me" rich in this world's goods and that "I" don't have to beg like that poor man Lazarus that is always begging on "my" front porch. "I" am happy to belong to a good church where only the "good people" go. You know who "I" mean ... those that are successful in this life and who You have obviously blessed by making them wealthy in material goods. Thank You "I" don't have to associate with the lowlifes like that wretched Lazarus. "I" can live "my" life always thanking You for "my" wealth, "my" health, and "my" personal fulfillment. Thank You again for helping "me" make all "my" dreams come true.

(5) Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Thank You for putting "me" in a position of authority in this earth so "I" can rule over all of these people who know nothing. Thank You "I" am the one in charge and these people better listen to "me". "I" am smart. "I" am the one in charge and if people come against "me," they will rue the day. "I" will sue their britches off and make their life miserable until they bow the knee and acknowledge how great You have made "ME."

(6) Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Thank You for paying for all of "my" sins, past, present and future. "I" never have to worry about sinning anymore. "I" know You don't recommend sin, but "I" am glad You just wink at it now. We both know "I" don't have to repent of "my" sin to make it into heaven. "I" can just live "my" life now and as long as "I" give You praise and worship, "I" don't really have to repent of sin. As long as "I" continue to pray and worship You, "I" can continue to sin and still be in right standing with You. Yes ... that's what "I" hunger and thirst for ... for Your righteousness to be accounted to "me" while "I" continue to live in habitual sin.

(7) Blessed *are* the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Thank You for forgiving "me" by the sacrifice of Christ. "I" thank You for justifying "me" and all of these people better understand that "I" am a child of God and not to be messed with. They better not "touch God's anointed" or they will soon find out about vengeance from "me."

(8) Blessed *are* the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Again "I" want to thank You for making "me" Your child so "I" can go forth and enjoy the pleasure of this world without fear of penalty. The world isn't so bad. "I" know You want "me" to be "happy" and many of the pleasures of the world make "me" "happy." "I" know You desire holiness, but "I" am sure holiness is not required to see You ... like the writer of Hebrews said. He was just being a little "legalistic." Thanks for letting "me" enjoy You ... and that "I" can be a friend of the world at the same time.

(9) Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

"I" know "I" am saved. All those other people better get saved too! "I" am going to concentrate on living "my best life now" and I'm sure they will find their way to You without "me" needing to share the good news with them. After all, they might not like "me" telling them they are not saved. "I" call myself Your child but "I" see no need to tell other people about the peace with God that is available through Christ.

(10) Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (11) Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile You, and persecute You, and shall say all manner of evil against You falsely, for my sake. (12) Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is Your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before You.

Again, "I" want to thank You for blessing "my" life and for causing all "my" dreams to come true. "I" am so grateful that all men speak well of "me." Thank You for making "my" life one of "flowery beds of ease" where nobody is ever upset with "me" at all. "I" like to be liked and it sure is great that You have made it so easy for everybody to just LOVE "me" the way "I" am. Whew! "I" sure am glad the days of persecution are over and that none of us who call ourselves Christians today need to ever fear being persecuted for Your name's sake.