

The Gospel of Matthew #25

Sermon on the Mount: How to Be Happy

WHAT THE BEATITUDES ARE ABOUT

Matthew 5:1-12

Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount.

Perhaps a summary of 2-3 days of teaching (cf. 15:32).

Matthew clusters 5 blocks of Words and 6 of Works. This is first of Words and is most definitive.

And the first twelve verses (5:1-12) are key to understanding the rest of the sermon.

Introduction to the Beatitudes: the summary of the Sermon.

Celebrate Recovery is based on the 8 Blessings of 5:1-12.

Four things to observe about the "Beatitudes" before we consider each one:

I. Christ *wants* you to be _____!

That is a surprise to many. The first section of His first major teaching in Matthew is about how to be happy.

9x to describe 8 interrelated ways.

II. They are distinguishing marks of _____ Christian.

Begins His ministry by describing what uniquely characterizes every disciple of His.

III. They are _____ characteristics.

None of these are a matter of temperament.

IV. They show how a Christian is radically _____ from unbelievers.

Much concern today with how similar Church people and nonchurch people appear: values, lifestyles, etc.

The Church is strong when the distinctions are crystal clear.

Beatitudes show how Christians are different in:

A. What they _____.

B. What they _____.

C. What they _____.

D. What the world _____ of them.

Examine yourself by these marks to be sure you are in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Where you see need for improvement: good news! That is where you can grow in happiness!