

Matthew 5:1–5

¹ And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.

² Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

THE BEATITUDES – PART 2 **MATTHEW 5:4-6**

INTRO:

We are exploring the Sermon on the Mount in **Matthew chapters 5-7**. We began last time looking at the setting of the sermon and to whom it was given. We then considered the first beatitude. We observed last time, the Lord Jesus began His famous sermon describing what the subjects of the Kingdom of Heaven look like. We continue today by looking at the next two beatitudes.

I. Blessed Are Those Who Mourn (v. 4)

II. Blessed Are The Meek (v. 5)

I. Blessed Are Those Who Mourn (v. 4)

“Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.” (Matthew 5:4).

A. Those who recognize their poverty of spirit are also those who know how to mourn. These are not those who have lost loved ones. Although this kind of grief is an ever present part of life in this veil of tears, this is not the kind of mourning our Lord described in this beatitude.

B. Because we recognize our poverty of spirit is tied directly to our sinfulness, we, who feel our unworthiness before God, also sense the awful weight of our sin and we mourn it. Do you remember David, the man after God’s own heart who cried out in **Psalm 25:11** ***“For Your name’s sake, O LORD, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great.”*** David pleaded God’s character because he was painfully aware of his unworthiness. He also pleaded God character because he mourned over his great burden of personal sinfulness.

C. The Apostle Paul also knew the burden of his sin and guilt. Remember his struggle in **Romans 7**? He wrote,

“For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do” (v. 15).

Finally, the Apostle cried out.

“O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” (v. 24).

This is mourning over our personal sin.

D. Do you and I mourn over our sin? If we live in God’s favor, we recognize our poverty of spirit, we will recognize it is our sin that keeps us from pleasing our Heavenly Father. We learn to hate our sin and seek His forgiveness and work to overcome our sin. If you are not troubled by your sin, you are not found in this beatitude.

E. How are we who mourn over sin, comforted? God has given us a way to deal with our sin.

1 John 1:7-10 ***“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

The fact is, God told us we do not live sinless lives. The point is that when we sin we must run into the presence of our Heavenly Father and confess that sin so we may be forgiven. When God forgives us we are comforted.

F. There is also a corporate sense of mourning over sin. A great example is **Nehemiah 1:4-6.**

“So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. And I said: ‘I pray, LORD God of heaven, O great and awesome God, You who keep Your covenant and mercy with those who love You and observe Your commandments, please let Your ear be attentive and Your eyes open, that You may hear the prayer of Your servant which I pray before You now, day and night, for the children of Israel Your servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father’s house and I have sinned.’”

Do we ever mourn over the sins of our nation and confess those sins before our eternal God?

II. Blessed Are The Meek (v. 5)

“Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.” (Matthew 5:5).

A. Thus far we discovered **(1)** The ones who live under God’s favor and blessing are those who first recognize their own spiritual bankruptcy. They cannot merit

anything from God but have to come to God by faith and receive His salvation by faith. **(2)** The one uniquely blessed by God hates his sin because it is sin which divides us from God. Now we encounter a third characteristic of those who are uniquely blessed by God and thus are joyful. They are meek.

B. The meek person is not a weak person who can do nothing other than submit to others. The meek person seeks God over everything else. Let us look at some meek people in the Bible. Moses was meek. Remember **Numbers 12:2-3?**

“So [Aaron and Miriam] said, ‘Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?’ And the LORD heard it. (Now the man Moses was very meek more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)”

Before we fall into the trap of thinking Moses was a wet washrag, remember what he did when Israel sinned with the golden calf. Moses burned the idol with fire and ground it up and made Israel drink it. No wimp could do that. What did Moses do to show he was meek? He let God deal with the troublemakers.

C. Another person who demonstrated meekness is our Lord Jesus Christ. Do you remember the great invitation in **Matthew 11:28-29?**

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

The Lord Jesus was meek but He was not weak. He could have destroyed the world with a thought. He was and is the eternal Son of God who created all things and holds them together. Meekness is not thinking poorly of ourselves. The Lord Jesus is always submitted to the Father’s will. Meekness is understanding that before God I have no rights. A meek person accepts that God can do whatever He wants with him.

D. Meekness describes the attitude we should exhibit when we receive the Word of God **James 1:21.**

“Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

We approach the Bible recognizing God has every right to tell us how to live and we are responsible to Him.

What do we take from all of this?

1. Those who are a part of the kingdom of God and thus live under the approval and blessing of our God are those who hate their sin. Those who love God are troubled by their sin. If you do not care about sin, if you sin believing it makes no difference to God, you better check your relationship with the living God. However, if you desire above all things to be sinless like your heavenly Father is sinless, it is a great evidence you belong to Him and desire to be like Him.

2. As we struggle with our sin, the promise we shall be comforted is wonderful. Our Lord gave us a huge resource to find forgiveness.

1 John 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

Three verses later in **1 John 2:1-2**, the Apostle John adds,

“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

3. The second great mark of those who belong to the kingdom of heaven are those who are meek. Those who are meek recognize that they belong to the Lord and He runs things. Meekness means we recognize before God we have no rights, or as Amy Carmichael put it, we freely give all our rights to Him. Meekness makes us want to obey.

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:6–7).

Hymn #437 Pure and Holy