

Jesus Teaches, Mathew 5:1-12

Today we are going to look at one of the most Famous Sermons EVER delivered by Jesus himself. It is known as the Sermon on the Mount. It is the longest and fullest teaching of Jesus that has been recorded to us in all the Gospels. Its found in the book of Mathew so you can be making your way there, to chapter 5.

The Sermon on the Mount takes up several chapters in the Gospel of Mathew, beginning in chapter 5 and ends in 7, and as its the CC way to go Chapter by chapter verse by verse, we could be here a long time; however, today but we'll be looking at the first 12 verses known as the Beatitudes.

The Sermon on the Mount is no doubt one of the most famous passages in the New Testament. It is a portion of scripture that is most quoted from both believers and unbelievers. I think all of us have heard someone say to us - Judge not, that you be not judged...particularly in this day and age.

Most people in the Western World have heard of the “the Beatitudes” or the “Golden Rule.” All of which are found here in this great teaching by Jesus know collectively as the SOM. But what is the essence of this sermon?

For sure this section of scripture has been analyzed, studied and interpreted over the centuries and many views on the meaning of the purpose of the sermon have been written on the matter.

For instance, is this teaching of Christ a set of rules that must be followed in order to earn favor with God? You know, approaching the Beatitudes like — how can I be blessed; what must I do if I'm to be blessed.

So, we think: *If* we want the kingdom of heaven, *then* we should be poor in spirit; *if* we want to be comforted, *then* we should mourn; *if* we want to inherit the earth, *then* we must be meek and humble; etc.etc...

Listen to what Billy Grahm's Grandson, Pastor Tullian, says as he summarizes this Sermon on the Mount:

“We naturally treat the Sermon on the Mount like we typically treat the rest of the Bible — like its a divine self-help manual, a blueprint for

having your best life now. But actually the Sermon on the Mount is intended to show that the Christian life is a glorious impossibility.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus wants to set us free by showing us our need for a rightness we can never attain on our own— (an impossible righteousness that's always out of our reach).

The purpose of the Sermon on the Mount is to demolish all notions that we can reach the righteousness required by God— its about exterminating all attempts at a self-sufficient moral endeavor.

So, in the deepest sense, the Sermon on the Mount is not a goal, but a wall we crash into so that we finally cry out “I can't do it!”

That's your tasty little appetizer for today before we press into the main course, - “The Christian life is a glorious impossibility”, a wall we crash into and cry out I CANT DO IT! You know what that says to me— It is the end of RELIGION. Religions can be summed up as mankind's endeavors to earn favor with God, a list of do's and don't's, and steps and checkpoints to reach on your way to ascension.

Righteousness, which simply means, (right standing with God), is an impossibility on our own thanks to the Law!

Ah but for the grace of God—

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians:— [“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” [Ephesians 2:8-9].]—

There are no strings attached. God's grace doesn't make demands. It just gives! And there is nothing that you can do to make Him love you more, and there is nothing that you can do to make Him love you less. He simply loves you with a perfect LOVE and asks that you and I to put our faith in His Son Jesus and be saved.

SO, If you hear nothing else at all today - be assured that God Loves you - He is loving you right where you are, right now, and He has shown you how much HE loves you by going to the cross, and its... THIS MUCH!
AMEN.

It is worth pointing out: the opening portion of Jesus's Sermon on the Mount here is known as the BEatitudes, not the DOatitudes!

The emphasis of the beatitudes is more on what you ARE than what you do. Jesus is getting set to unpack to his disciples (that's us) and wants to make known to us, who we truly are, AND more importantly WHO'S we are!

Jesus is going to be describing what the child of God is like in the beatitudes. Further down here in the text of chapter 5 is verse 45, He says: "that you might be children of your Father."

These Beatitudes describes the general Character as a Christian and citizens of the KOG. ALL believers are to manifest all of these characteristics as members of God's kingdom. The characteristics here are not like the gifts of the HS where some have certain gifts while others have another. NO, These characteristics detail the kingdom of God person, so we will possess them all.

— Ever stop and wonder what the difference is between the worldly person and the characteristics of the Christian? More often the naught, it is easier to spot the similarities. Well the beatitudes are distinctive to the Christ follower. There is a faulty logic held by some in the church that pastor and leadership have to be holy but the rest do not, because most people live in the world so they'll have to live LIKE the world, and sadly much of the world has crept into the church and it's often difficult to separate the two.

But that is not so my friends. Being a Christ follower, a Christian, means you'll have ALL these characteristics. So hopefully, after looking at this portion of scripture today it'll become clearer, and maybe you'll realize that you're more distinct than you ever once thought.

Up to this point in our text today - Jesus has been revealing to the disciples the absolute necessity of the new birth. Man must not only do right, he must be right in thought, word, and deed— an impossibility for us, whose hearts are "deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." (Jeremiah 17:9)

Jesus is describing the character that is developed in a man by the New Birth and the work of the HS in his life. You are not any these attributes naturally. Your natural temperament has nothing to do with your relationship with God. Each of us have to come to God the same way — as a hopeless, and helpless, sinner.

You see, we all know that God's standard of righteousness is found in the Law, and none of us are justified by it. Paul writes in the book of Romans:

—[Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. [Romans 5:19-20]]—

I love that part about “every mouth may be stopped” — there is so much babbling that is done when you ask someone if they think they are a good person; but though the law—no flesh will be justified in His sight. That should be terrifying, because God MUST judge the world according to His perfect justice and everyone want justice these days until they realize its aimed at them too. God is JUST and will judge the world with perfection and the whole world is guilty...BUT Then the messiah (Jesus) steps into humanity and the Gospel of John points out that:

—[For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. [John 1:17 NKJV]]—

There is an interesting little contrast between the two when you look at the law vs. grace and truth:

LAW vs. GRACE and TRUTH

God came down to the mountain (Sinai) to give the commandments
<> Grace and truth was delivered by Jesus as He went up to the mountain.

When the law was given to Moses, God spoke with lightnings and thunderings <> Here on the SOM Jesus sat down and taught with a soft voice.

The law was written by God's own finger on stony tablets <> Jesus cuts straight to the matter, performing surgery on the heart using grace and truth.

When the law was given God's presence was feared by the people, only Moses approached <> Grace and truth was taught as people approached Jesus.

The Sermon on the Mount is really and expansive teaching on Jesus' commandment to love one another as I've loved you, and He says, he who keeps my commandments loves me. Jesus brings grace and truth. You and I recently learned that when you forgive someone (You've Graced them). WHY did Jesus have to come in the first place? I'll tell you why — its because you and I have offended God, and He has Graced us through His only Son.

We know what THE TRUTH is — Jesus is requiring things that I cant provide, to do things I cant do. His truth requires me to be something I cant be on my own, and it makes impossible demands on me that I cant achieve through my own human efforts.

But His GRACE is this — Jesus provides a way by being born again, a spiritual birth that gives us the HS Power, enabling us and work in our lives conforming us to kingdom kids.

Jesus didn't come to destroy the Law but to fulfill it. Through Jesus came Grace and Truth.

The Law reveals to us that Sin that is at work in our flesh and Jesus reveals Grace and Truth by making statements like the one found at the end of this very Chapter 5, take a look — “be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect.”. Does that sound simple enough?... lol, in the flesh NO!

Anyone in the room feeling perfect today? That's because Faith isn't a feeling its a TRUST. Our natural minds wrestle with this because even if we press into our purest fleshly state there is something present, a default contaminant that corrupts us all and everything around us. This substance is SIN and it has a higher mortality rate than COVID, (10 out of 10 people die from it). We all test SIN positive, and I'm certain that WE NEED A CURE. The solution to the the sin dilemma is Jesus! HE is the way maker, and curse breaker. JESUS SAVES, And anything not vaccinated by HIS

blood, not receiving the new birth, will be quarantined in Hell for eternity. That's the gospel truth.

It is only when we come to Christ in repentance and faith that we are given a new heart, that we are made new creations in Him (Born again) fit for the kingdom, children of God, citizens.

—[“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV]—

It is His Spirit in us that delivers us from uncleanness...not our efforts.

The apostle Paul confirms this when he teaches: it is the Spirit dwelling in us that brings forth His fruit, which could not be produced by the Law (Galatians 5:16-25)

It is only in abiding in Christ that we can produce the fruit of the Spirit—
Walking in the Spirit produces: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self control, ...
Walking in the flesh is stinky and there is a long list yuck that the flesh produces. The flesh lust against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. If you're twice born you know all too well this conflict. **But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the Law. (Galatians 5:18)**

The flesh will not inherit the kingdom of God. Your second birth delivers you from your flesh's destiny, it is not fit for the KOG!
—Are you ready to see what IS fit for the KOG?

OK, so your there in your bibles, Matthew chapter 5 verse 1

“And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying.”
Matthew 5:1-2 NKJV

The first thing to notice here is - the sermon is not for everybody, Jesus is not talking to the multitudes, Seeing the multitudes he went up on a mountain. His disciples came to Him. Not a disciple of Jesus Christ, and

you'll have a difficult time understanding the following teachings because it doesn't really have application to the unbeliever.

We see Jesus was sitting down; Which is a posture of a teacher in that day. You see back then a Teacher would sit and the students would usually end up standing... Somehow, in today's world ... we've got this all twisted. (haha)

It appears to me that teaching is for the believer and preaching is for the unbeliever, — we know the WOG says: (faith comes by hearing and hearing by the WOG). Faith is increased when the WOG it taught.

When truth needs proclaiming, the PREACHER of truth, would stand and deliver.

Anybody see any need for TRUTH PROCLAIMING today?
Well then you are called to preach! Yes you...

As followers of Jesus... we're enlisted in the Great Commission - "Go into all the world and PREACH the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15)

You and I are to tell the world believer... That is ... Stand up and herald the Good News. Tell of, and PROCLAIM, God's goodness and Great love to the world. AMEN

Now Jesus is about to unpack the characteristics of a Christ follower here with the pronounced blessings he says — **Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.**

Now the word "blessed" literally means "oh how happy" and because that is the literal meaning of the word blessed, it seems paradoxical to say—

"oh how happy are the poor in spirit".

Somehow we don't think of the poor in spirit as being very happy people but here Jesus declares — Oh how happy are the poor in spirit.

Now some have tried to interpret this to say — blessed in spirit are the poor, but that is not necessarily a truth. Poverty doesn't make for a blessed or happy spirit—more often than naught that spirit is very bitter.

Well first of all, he's not talking about physical poverty here is he? — poor in SPIRIT.

This is in opposition to being proud or full of your self.

Poor in spirit is always the inevitable consequence of a man who has come into a personal, and real encounter with God. The result immediately always is that of (poverty of spirit). You see a person who is proud, puffed up, and haughty, boastful, he is a man who has not had this confrontation, or true encounter with God.

I think of Job here as he was waiting to question God regarding all his suffering, feeling justified with his line of questioning, and then the Lord spoke him out of the whirlwind, saying — “Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.”

And then God begins to break down some wonders of creation to Job and then asks him — “shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him?”

Job said -“behold I am vile; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand over my mouth.”

Another example:

There was Daniel when he had his encounter with the Lord he said — ... no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength. (Another Translation it says- My beauty was turned in me to corruption)

Daniel 10:8-9 NKJV

This is a Bankrupt-poor-in-spirit-man!

These are like “Zoinks” moments in Scooby Doo. Uh oh Shaggy...

YOU SEE THE MAN WHO TRULY SEES GOD <> SEES HIMSELF IN TRUTH. There will be no boasting, no bragging, only humility.

Jesus says - we do err because we so often are comparing ourselves with others around us.

You know a sheep can think to himself, “I’m pretty pure”, when looking at the other sheep but when it snows, and the blanket of truth falls and truth is finally revealed, well then that sheep finds out just how filthy he is. That’s what Jesus does - Jesus is the true embodiment of perfection.

When we look at the Lord, that purity, that holiness, that righteousness, I have to say, Oh, God help me. Woe is me, I’m undone. That is what poverty of spirit is!

It’s a true evaluation of SELF, not in the light of man but in the light of God, where I see the real truth about me and it brings me to that, oh God help me. I can’t do it, that, “glorious impossibility”. Help me.

It’s the same thing that Paul said,— “Oh wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from this body of death? (Romans 7:24)

So that’s always the beginning; the beginning consciousness of a man who has a true relationship/encounter with God. It is poverty of spirit; but, Jesus said—really happy is that man. Why? Because he has had a true encounter with God, and as a result we read: the kingdom of heaven belongs to him!

He’s no longer living in just this temporal material realm, but he is now transferred into the kingdom as a child of God and as a citizen of His eternal kingdom!

Now vs. 4 **Blessed are they that mourn**

Now that really is even more paradoxical, isn’t it? Happy are they that mourn? Remember the context here:

But having come to a true awareness of myself in the light of God, coming to that poverty of spirit, my heart is broken over my own condition and the state of the world around us. I mourn over my failures, over what I see OF myself and IN myself, and AROUND myself.

But the promise of the Lord is...**They shall be comforted.**

What a great comfort it is to know that God is in control. There is victory over death. Jesus has defeated the grave; and, He has a plan to redeem

ALL of this around us. God has called you and I to enlist in His plan of redemption through JC.

Oh how happy are we, when we grieve and then realize that we have no strength, no ability, and no power. For it is HIS Power, the Holy Spirit in us that overcomes, because (greater is He that is in me than he who is in the world).

It is His strength in us that indeed makes us happy as we experience those victories of Jesus Christ in our lives.

We go from helplessness, crying out to God, into experiencing the glorious power of God; doing in our lives, what we could not possibly do for ourselves.

That will inevitably lead me to a true evaluation of myself, and then Jesus says:

Blessed are the meek...1
A]Matt 5:5

Now seeing myself in truth, I'm no longer puffed up, no longer deceiving myself about myself, no longer comparing ourselves to each other, which is an easy thing for all of us to do. It is looking to Jesus.

Pastor Chuck Smith said that the word meek here would best be described by putting a hyphen in the middle of it: Me-Ek. It is again looking at myself in the light of the Lord, realizing I'm nothing compared to Jesus and we should cling to Him. It is JESUS who saves and not I.

Quit the antithesis from the world is it not? The world admires the aggressor, the go getters the achievers, you see, if this were being written by the world, it would read something completely different, but since this is describing the attitude/attributes of the child of God. These are characteristics that are evident by the citizens of heaven.

Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.

You see the earth and all that is in it is ours, and the earth that we see NOW isn't the earth that God created nor is it the earth that will be. Today's earth has been damaged, plain and simple? This creation once

was perfect, now its full of rebellion against God, but God is going to restore this earth to its original, divine status and I for one am looking forward to seeing that. WE WILL see it, and what we are going to inherit will be an Earth as God intended it.

Wars will cease, man will dwell together in righteousness, in true justice, in peace. And God's kingdom will come to earth, and the children of God will inherit the Earth.

Jesus said, ...“—[Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:”(Matthew 25:34)]—

What an amazing place this earth is going to be, I can't wait, to experience life as God intended and see the earth restored. That's what we'll inherit!

Now we get to the fourth of the beatitudes - sort of the center, the first of the attitudes having kind of negative sense the following are more positive characteristics.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Seeing myself in the light of God, recognizing the truth of my own weakness, having a true evaluation of myself; I begin to hunger and thirst after righteousness.

This is a supernatural hunger and thirst because the natural is concerned only with self preservation, food and water, we understand, feeds the flesh, but righteousness glorifies God.

As Paul the apostle expresses, "I saw the ideal," Romans chapter seven. "I consent to the law that it is good, but how to perform it I can't discover. For the good that I would do I'm not doing and that which that I would not allow, that is the thing I am doing. O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from this body of death?" (Romans 7:16, 7:18-19,7:24)

And in there is that cry, oh God, help me, I cant do it, I hunger and I thirst after the ideal but I haven't been able to attain it. Who will help me to find the ideal?

Jesus said - oh how happy are they they that hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. If you're hungering and thirsting after righteousness, surely God will answer that hunger and thirst of your heart and you will be filled with the righteousness of God.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy

Jesus declares that our having been forgiven so much - that should be the incentive for our forgiving others. Here He puts it the other way. "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy". Well, we've obtained mercy and that's what makes us merciful.

Mercy is not getting what we deserve, right?! We don't deserve anything, except maybe some justice, that's getting what we deserve, anybody want some of that? No thank you! That why its best if we are going to err then we should err on the side of mercy, not judgement.

—[James 2:13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgement.]—

Vs. 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

The Bible constantly emphasizes the importance of the heart of man.

The controversy that Jesus had with the teachers of the Law was due to the fact that they putting the emphasis on the outward man, while He put the emphasis on the Heart.

Jesus talking to the teachers of the Law—

—[""Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness."]—

[Matthew 23:25-28 NKJV]]—

Their whole concern were the actions of the man, Jesus was concerned with the attitudes that provoke the actions. We can summarize then that

Jesus is saying— True religion is not about outward rituals but the heart of the matter is the matter of the heart.

King David in his prayer in Psalms 51, that the LORD would create in him a clean heart.

Paul wrote Timothy - “now the purpose of the commandment is to cause you to love with a pure heart.”

Oh how we need pure hearts. When Jesus promised that the Pure in heart would see God, He was saying: we would begin to apprehend the ways of God; the purpose of God; and the hand of God in the circumstance in my life.

We have an understanding that our lives belong to Him and all things that happen to us will be used for our eternal good and His eternal glory.

And ONE day we will actually see Him. Paul said that now we see through a glass darkly, but one day it will be face to face.

Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.”

This pretty much concludes the description of the child of God.

Why is it so hard to maintain peace in the world? The answer to this problem is much deeper than any social or economic injustice, its SIN. The trouble is in the heart.

There is a great need in the world today for peacemaker but what is a peacemaker? It may help to think of the opposite of peace which is strife and some people just love stirring the pot don't they. They relish it and aren't willing to see strife die. (We've all been on Fb to know what this person is like.)

The peacemaker does not look at things in terms of how they may effect self. Peacemakers have looked at the self and have seen it's wretchedness and has a new view of self and others— they don't ask “why do the act like that?”, they know they are acting like that because God isn't governing.

A peacemaker is governed by God and is someone who is bringing men to God. There are vertical and horizontal planes to peace.

Christ's example: did not claim His rights and He humbled Himself. He did all that so we..

“THEY SHALL BE CALLED THE SONS OF GOD”

For they shall be like God in making peace—God's desire is “Peace on earth and goodwill towards men.” When Jesus comes again, He shall be called the “Prince of Peace”.

But remember what must be done before there is peace on earth. Jesus is not a pacifist

In the next beatitude Jesus basically lines out what the response will be from the world.

We read these attributes about kingdom citizens and say - that person would be welcomed anywhere, well they would be in any church, but when this person gets in the world its a different story— Jesus said, "Don't be surprised that men hate you, they hated me. Don't be surprised they didn't receive you, they didn't receive me" (John 15:18).

We know that each these characteristics where surely manifested in the life of Jesus Christ. Think of all His attributes, then remember how the world responded to him, often they would pick up stones to chuck, and they plotted to murder him, which ultimately succeeded in getting him crucified. He did everything by the LAW perfectly, without sin, and he said this will be the response of the world towards that kind of person.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

If you are this kind of a righteous person, you'll be persecuted for being that kind of person. People will take advantage of you, run all over you, and people will resent you, because you will make them uncomfortable (the Holy Spirit in you) when you are around them because you are doing the right thing, have right motives, and they're wanting to do the wrong things, and have selfish motives. Thus they will begin to project against you their feelings of guilt.

“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for

great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

That’s a difficult thing to do, when you persecuted or being hated on, its awfully hard to rejoice. Its our natural tendency to want to lash out or mope. We don’t like to be persecuted but Jesus said “rejoice”. Can you?

Peter and John in the book of Acts, when they were going into the temple, and through the faith in Jesus Christ brought healing to a lame man, and the result was that were beaten and thrown in jail and after they were brought to trial and told not to speak in the name of Jesus anymore, it says — “They went their way rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer persecution for Jesus Christ.” (Acts 5:41)

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad,

Why? “For great is your reward in heaven,”And secondly, your in great company,

“For so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

So when tribulation comes, and you know that in this world you’ll have it, you must realize that its only temporary. Pain is not our destiny. It is good to maintain an ETERNAL perspective. HEAVEN is our destiny.

SO Just a quick recap—

In reality the Beatitudes are not telling us to do anything. They describe the characteristics of the Twice born. Your born again spirit exhibits all these attributes as part of it’s new nature. This nature is fit for the KOG. Jesus knows our human condition and present situation with the sin dilemma and tells us the Truth about it, (no one comes to the father but by me) and he shows us how the coming of Christ (Graced us - forgiven) and has changed our state of existence and altered our eternal destiny. PTL!

Jesus is saying that we who are poor in our spirits are now blessed (happy) and can find our share in the Kingdom of Heaven because Jesus has come.

We who have been mourning in life because of life's sorrows and shames can now be comforted because Jesus has come (and is leading us to a NEW world, that is Redeemed).

We who often have no share or inheritance in life's resources and wealth can now be considered to be the most wealthy and fortunate on earth because we can have Jesus.

We who continually and miserably fail to live up to the standards of righteousness can now be filled with the righteousness of God, because of Jesus.

We who are merciful to others, but are ourselves in need of mercy and forgiveness, can now receive the mercy of God through Jesus.

We who are deeply longing to see purity in life and in the world can see and know the purest of purities, the beauty of God's own face, because Jesus has come.

We who work and strive for peace in the world, are often caught between conflicting groups, misunderstood, and mislabeled by both sides, without an accurate identity from either, can now rest in the identity that is given by God himself — we are now children of God.

Once we were not Blessed; but now — “Oh how happy are we” — BLESSED, Jesus has come and we have received him. Truth.

LETS PRAY —