

## e-concepts

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### Lessons from the Beatitudes

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Large crowds were following Him, and His disciples came to Him, so this sermon was for everyone. The theme of the Sermon on the Mount is to live so as to be rewarded in the kingdom of heaven.

#### Three Major Purposes for the Sermon

- It tends to drive us to our knees. It shows us the real righteousness of the kingdom of God. It gives us the standard of the kingdom of God, but it also shows us how far short of it we are.
- It reveals God's pattern for happiness in the kingdom of God. It's the way of joy, peace, and contentment.
- It shows us how to please God. The Sermon on the Mount is not written for the Millennial Kingdom because: (1) The Sermon itself never says it's for another age. (2) Jesus demanded these standards of people living in His age. (3) Many of these standards have no meaning in the Millennial Kingdom. For example, there will be no persecution of believers in the Millennial Kingdom. (4) The principles taught in the Sermon are found elsewhere in the New Testament. (5) Chronologically, it was written to the church age, about AD 50.

#### Eight Opportunities for Happiness in the Kingdom

- *Blessed (happy) are the poor in spirit* is one who is destitute (v 3). Blessed are you when you are that way spiritually, i.e., spiritually desperate. This is the foundation of the whole sermon. Humility is the root of all virtue, and pride is the root of all sin.
- *Blessed are those who mourn* is a deep grief, the type of grief if someone close to you, like a child, died (v 4). You are mourning because of your sinful condition before God. Be increasingly sensitive to your sin. Come to God daily on your knees in deep remorse, confessing your sin.
- *Blessed are the meek* is used of soothing medicine. It's used of a soft breeze and used of a domesticated animal, i.e., controlled strength, a gentleness with strength behind it, not weakness (v 5). Put God in control of your strengths, that is, practice meekness.
- *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness* (v 6). Develop a desire, or hunger, for righteousness. The ungodly or the immature do not have that hunger. The Godly and mature have developed that desire. Be around people who also desire that. Avoid people who do not desire righteousness.
- *Blessed are the merciful*. Mercy is unmerited non-punishment (v 7). Show mercy when you are wronged, i.e., don't pursue justice when you are wronged.
- *Blessed are the pure in heart*. Pure is the word for "clean" in heart, i.e., clean motives (v 8). Sincerity can lead to sin, but David said, "Create in me a clean heart" (Psalm 51:10). The wisdom of God is first pure and clean (James 3:17). Pursue pure motives by conforming your actions to the Word of God.
- *Blessed are the peacemakers*. Look at heroes of the Bible, how did they make peace (v 9)? Peacemaking is not compromising with evil. It's not peace by tolerating evil. It's peace that first requires going to war with sin (the struggle of Romans 7, for example). Be a peacemaker, not by tolerating or overlooking sin but by helping people expose and deal with it.
- *Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness* (vv 10-12). If you're not being shot at, perhaps you are not in the battle. Don't seek persecution. But if you pursue the righteousness of the kingdom, you will be persecuted. Be sufficiently outspoken for the ways of God, knowing it will bring about criticism from the ungodly.

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