

2020

“The Beatitudes”



Didache Fellowship

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Matthew 12:1-12
"The Beatitudes"

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

He said:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and
thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of
God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people insult
you, persecute you and falsely say all
kinds of evil against you because of

me. Rejoice and be glad, because great
is your reward in heaven, for in the
same way, they persecuted the
prophets who were before you.

Luke Chapter 6

And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples
and said: "Blessed are the poor, for
yours is the Kingdom of God.

"Blessed are you that hunger now, for
you shall be satisfied. "Blessed are you
that weep now, for you shall laugh."

"Blessed are you when men hate you,
and when they exclude you and revile
you, and cast out your name as evil, on
account of the Son of man!"

"Rejoice in that day and leap for
joy, because great is your reward in
heaven. For that is how their ancestors
treated the prophets.

But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received
your comfort.

Woe to you who are well fed now,
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.

Woe to you when everyone speaks well
of you, for that is how their ancestors
treated the false prophets.

CHRISTS TEACHINGS "SERMON ON THE MOUNT"

Let's carefully examine this scene step by step. Jesus is sitting with his disciples; there is a large crowd of Jews sitting around the disciples. They know the Torah, and they know the law of Moses. They understand that if you follow and obey, blessings of food, children and livestock will increase. You will have an abundance of peace and joy. But, if you disobey, you will have poverty, famine and wars throughout the land and eventually exile. When Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of God," He is announcing a new exodus into the kingdom. In their hearing, they are shocked to hear this announcement, after all, they are the "chosen" ones, the descendants of Abraham. (read Deut 28:1-8 and 11)

Furthermore, Jesus continues to say blessed are you that mourn, blessed are you that hunger, blessed are you when men persecute you and revile you. Rejoice on that day for your reward is great in heaven as they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Jesus is turning the whole structure of blessings on their head, he continues and says woe to you who are rich, woe to you who are full and woe to you who laugh and who are reviled amongst men. One needs to ask, what is going on? What is Jesus doing, and what is He trying to say? Christ's teachings on the Sermon on the Mount are rearranging all the blessings into curses. In other words, you will build up treasures in heaven not on earth.

This will be done through suffering. It's through poverty, hunger, mourning, and above all, these are persecution for the sake of the gospels. These new blessings are spiritually dangerous! Consider the consequences, woe to you who are rich. It's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God. Why?

Because where your heart is, there will also be your treasure. Riches has the power to bring our hearts down from the Kingdom of Heaven. They focus on earthly goods. Likewise, when you are full now with getting a meal, this can lead to feeling all sufficiently to where you don't need God.

Gods people who are actually starving need God. They know how weak they are and are dependent on God. But, the rich and the full become contented. The same also applies to those who are laughing now. Jesus isn't condemning laughter, just the kind that is rooted in earthly happiness.

Within the New Covenant, the blessings are rooted in what gives us the impression to be curses. To find real joy is in the Kingdom of God. One must detach themselves from earthly goods and blessings.

One needs to understand how the Kingdom of Heaven came down to earth. It was "the way" of the cross! Christ was a poor man; he was stripped of everything. He was falsely accused and brutally beaten. When you see Jesus hanging on the cross, you see one who looks like he was cursed. Yet, he was the most blessed man since antiquity.

Jesus is evangelizing "The Way" of the cross, and He is doing it with the Beatitudes. As Jesus spoke these blessings and woes, they were explosive like laser-guided missiles. They are a hugely influential challenge to every one of us. As we read in the Gospel of Luke, "unless you pick up your cross daily and follow me, you can not be my disciple." That's "The Way" of the cross!

Blessed are the poor in spirit:

The Greek translation for poor is "a crouched beggar." The reflection here points to your spirit. To be spiritually poor one must recognize their need for God and his forgiveness. To trade off all of their earthly blessings for a heavenly kingdom. They find their security and belonging in Christ. They rely on His mercy rather than their selfish merits and material wealth. They are satisfied with a warm place to sleep, a roof over their head and daily meals to sustain their health. They live their life for the purpose of laying it down as a sacrifice. When we realize we are the crouched beggars, our gratitude to God who created us, becomes that much more significant.

Blessed are those that mourn:

Those who weep over the present state of this life. This includes weeping for sins. They especially mourn for fellow Christians who suffer for their faith and the sake of the Gospels. We return love for hatred and blessings and prayers for curses.

Blessed are the meek:

The meek are those who appear to be helpless and irrelevant. They turn the other cheek. They go with them for two miles. They rely on God to move mountains. They do not seek vengeance. "Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart." True meekness is decided there, it is from the heart! With quiet strength, the meek disciple endures sufferings, disappointments, and insults. They respond to provocation with humility, love, and forgiveness. Love your neighbor. They inherit a new creation that is to come.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness:

Understands that the yoke of Christ is righteousness. Christ shares his yoke to teach and train you in Father's righteousness. "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. As you hunger and thirst, you will be filled with rest for your soul. Your first priority on the path of life is to seek the Kingdom of God and His (Fathers) righteousness. To be satisfied in eternal life with God.

Blessed are the merciful:

Those who please the Father by extending His Glory to others. They are generous in aiding those who live in poverty by works of justice and charity. Those whose love compels them to contribute to the others' good; they feel indebted to everyone. Lives the life of a servant, and is more than willing to bear the others' burdens. On judgment day, they will receive mercy forever.

Pure in heart:

Those who "ACT" with integrity and live a life that is pleasing to God the Father and find their true treasures in heaven. Knowledge in the difference between good and evil. To depart, flee or avoid that which is evil. An action of dedicating private prayer, worship, and study time with the Lord. A heart that is guarded against evil and lustful thoughts or actions.

Blessed are the peacemakers:

Those who sow Kingdom seeds of love into the world. God's love is perfect, nothing added or subtracted. They share the gospel with others so they can be reconciled with God and live in peace with Christ in providence. They fulfill the law, "Love your neighbor." God's love is not human love, it is supernatural, and eternal. Peacemakers are the strength and capacity to "Love like Father's love," as Jesus presents to us in the Gospels.

Blessed are those who are persecuted:

Those who love the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. They are slandered, accused falsely, and physically and mentally abused for their public testimony to Christ. They are hated for their commitment to the righteousness of the Gospels.

You are the salt of the earth and light of the world. You fulfill the law and do not take away from it. You are satisfied with the cross God gives you to bear, and do not complain but rejoice for the opportunities to be cursed. Our daily cross is the beatitudes, that's "the way" of the cross!