The Beatitudes (Sermon on the Mount)

I. Blessed are the poor in Spirit

Jesus went up on the mountainside. He began to teach his disciples:

We call these teachings “the beatitudes” which means heavenly happiness. In these teachings, Jesus tells us how to be spiritually happy. God blesses people who are needy, sad, and humble. He blesses people who seek for righteousness, show mercy, and have pure hearts. God blesses people who seek and strive for peace and who suffer for loving Jesus.

***Read Matthew 5: 1-12***

II. Blessed are those that mourn.

The second beatitude is: “Blessed are the people who mourn. They will be comforted.” What does blessed mean? It means to be happy or to be given good things. So this beatitude could be written: Happy are the people who are sad. Why are they happy? They are happy because God promises to comfort them. In the Psalms, the Lord is called our shepherd. Isaiah also refers to the Lord as our shepherd. Psalm 23 and Isaiah 49 says that when we are suffering, the Lord will comfort us.

***Read Matt. 5:4***

III. Blessed are the meek.

The third beatitude is “Blessed are those who are meek. They will be given the earth.” The Greek word for meekness means to be gentle, humble, considerate, and courteous. A person who is meek does not insist on their “rights”. Instead, they think of other people first. Meekness does not mean weakness. Both Moses and Jesus were meek. However, both of them showed strength and even anger.

***Read Matt. 5: 5***

IV. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

The fourth beatitude is: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. What is righteousness? Righteousness means to be completely right and just – always doing what is right and honorable. Noah was an example of a righteous man. In Genesis, he is called godly and without blame. John the Baptist was also known as a righteous man. In Proverbs, we read about some characteristics of a righteous or godly person. A godly person doesn’t fall into sin. Godly people are truthful. They even choose their friends carefully.

V. Blessed are those who show mercy.

The fifth beatitude is: Blessed are those who show mercy. They will be shown mercy. What is mercy? The word mercy means to show kindness and compassion to someone who does not deserve it. Notice the word “show” – this means to demonstrate. Mercy is a physical action of compassion to another person. But mercy is also forgiveness. Mercy is the love of God that forgives. If we look at the definition of mercy, we see the words “……to someone who does not deserve it”. This is forgiveness.

***Read Matthew 5: 7***

VI. Blessed are the pure in heart.

The sixth beatitude is: “Blessed are the pure in heart. They will see God.” To understand this beatitude, we must first learn what the Bible means by the word “heart”. In the Bible, the heart is not just an organ in our body. It is our essence. The heart is our conscience, our desires, and our emotions. God wants us to love Him with our whole heart. This means that our desires, conscious thought, and emotions should be on God.

***Read Matthew 5:8***

VII. Blessed are the Peacemakers

The seventh beatitude is “Blessed are those who make peace. They will be called sons of God.” There are different definitions of the word “peace”. One definition is that peace is the opposite of war. Many people think that this beatitude means that you should not participate in war. But wars will happen. Jesus even talks about wars in Matthew 24. Wars ultimately are the result of sin in this world.

***Read Matthew 5: 9***

VIII. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake.

The final beatitude is “Blessed are those who suffer for doing what is right. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.” In many versions of the Bible, the words for “those who suffer” are written as “those who are persecuted”. The Greek word for “persecute” means to chase after or pursue. This beatitude is very important. We can see how important it is.

This is the only beatitude that is repeated. Also, this beatitude has 3 verses.

All of the other beatitudes are only 1 verse long.