

The Final Four Beatitudes (Mat. 5:7-10)

I. REVIEW: SERMON ON THE MOUNT ARE CORE VALUES OF THE KINGDOM

A. Sermon on the Mount is the constitution of God's kingdom on earth in this age, revealing what God most values. It is Jesus' most comprehensive statement on a believer's role in cooperating with the grace of God and is the "litmus test" to measure our spiritual development and ministry impact. In this sermon, Jesus calls His people to perfect obedience and to make this their primary goal in life. We do this by seeking to walk in all the light that the Spirit gives us. Pursuing obedience is not the same as attaining it.

⁴⁸ ***You shall be perfect [walk in all the light you receive] as your Father...is perfect. (Mt. 5:48)***

B. Jesus calls us to live out ***the eight beatitudes*** (5:3-12) as we pursue ***100-fold obedience*** (5:48). The 8 beatitudes are *being poor in spirit, spiritual mourning, walking in meekness, hungering for righteousness, showing mercy, embracing purity, being a peacemaker, and enduring persecution.*

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.*** ⁶***Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.*** ⁷***Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*** ⁸***Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*** ⁹***Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*** ¹⁰***Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Mt. 5:3-10)***

C. The Beatitudes are like 8 beautiful flowers in the "garden in our heart" that God wants to fully blossom. They define love, godliness, and spiritual maturity and describe the kingdom lifestyle. Implied in all of God's commands is the promise of the enabling to walk out the command.

D. These ***8 flowers*** must be cultivated as we "weed our garden" by ***resisting 6 temptations*** related to our natural lusts (5:21-48) and as we "water our garden" by ***pursuing 5 activities*** (6:1-18).

1. ***The 6 temptations:*** *anger, immorality, disregarding the marriage covenant, making false commitments, demanding personal rights, and living with a spirit of retaliation* (5:21-48).

2. ***The 5 kingdom activities:*** *prayer, fasting, giving, serving, and blessing enemies* (6:1-18) are spiritual disciplines that position our heart before God to receive more grace freely.

E. The world sees the first four beatitudes as negative qualities; the second four as positive qualities.

1. First Four: *Poverty of Spirit, Spiritual Mourning, Meekness, Hungering and Thirsting for Righteousness*

2. Second Four: *Mercy, Purity of Heart, Peacemaking and Persecution for Righteousness*

II. THE FINAL FOUR BEATITUDES

- A. **Relating to others with mercy** (“for they shall obtain mercy,” Mt. 5:7) is to treat others with a tender spirit when they fail spiritually, attack, resist, or disappoint us, when they fall short and when they suffer injustice. We are to show them mercy, just as we receive God’s mercy in our many shortcomings (Ps. 130:3-4; Ps. 145:8-9; Isa. 55:6-8; Eph. 2:4-5; Mic. 7:18).

³ **If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? ⁴ But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared. (Psalm 130:3-4)**

⁹ **The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works. (Psalm 145:9)**

¹⁸ **Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy. (Micah 7:18)**

⁷ **Let him [unrighteous] return to the Lord And He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. ⁸ “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. (Isa. 55:7-8)**

1. Giving mercy does not mean we forsake the standard of holiness. Jesus told the man at the Pool of Bethesda and the woman caught in adultery to “sin no more” while speaking tenderly to them (John 5:14; 8:11).
2. There are many expressions of mercy. We are called to be tender towards those *who mistreat us* (Mat. 5:44), *complain against us, annoy us* (Mat. 5:39-42), *people who are different, who are less committed to God than we are, who make mistakes, who stumble in scandalous sins* (Gal. 6:1).
3. The second category of expressing mercy *is to those who suffer and are in great need due to poverty, sickness, oppression, persecution, or other trials* (Lk. 10:30-37; 1 Jn. 3:17). Giving mercy allows for those who receive it to feel accepted and valued by both God and His people. (Col. 3:12-13)
4. The measure of mercy we give is the measure we understand of God’s mercy. If we cannot give mercy to someone, it reveals where we have not understood and received God’s mercy. (Psalm 130:4; Col. 3:13)
5. Justice is getting what we deserve. Mercy is getting what we don’t deserve. There are many things God has given us (beyond salvation) that we did not deserve: family, education, opportunities, relationships, house, car, etc... To the degree we can show gratitude for these things reveals our understanding of God’s mercy in our lives. Likewise, we are not threatened by the blessings others received as they too got beyond what they deserved (Mt. 20:1-16). Only God is the wise judge to determine who receives what things.
6. We shall receive more mercy, if we give mercy to others. Jesus is highlighting the principle that we will reap whatever we sow. Later, He develops this principle more (Mt. 7:2).

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SESSION 3 - THE BEATITUDES, PART TWO (MAT. 5:7-10)

—BRIAN BEESON

- B. **Being pure in heart** (“they shall see God,” Mt. 5:8) is to seek to walk in purity in our morals, motives and methods as we obey Jesus, resisting fleshly lusts which pollute our ability to experience Him. Walking in purity allows for us to see God in this age which is the highest experience for anyone.
1. We are to contend for purity in our *morals*, resisting lusts that war against our hearts (Mk. 7:21-23; 1 Pet. 2:11); for our *motives*: seeking to give others more than we receive from them; for our *methods*: accomplishing goals without using manipulation or distortion.
 2. Seeing, knowing and experiencing God refers to the same privileged role (Rev. 4:8; 22:4; John 17:24). Purity does not earn us the ability to see God but increases our capacity to see (Heb. 12:14). When we understand how our purity impacts the way in which we experience God, we will take drastic measures. When our spiritual eyes are set on single-focus to obey Jesus, it enables light to flood us (Mat. 6:22).
¹⁴ Pursue ... holiness [purity of heart], without which no one will see the Lord. (Heb. 12:14) ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.
- C. **Becoming a peacemaker** (“called sons of God,” Mt. 5:9) speaks of those who do not create strife or contention in relationships and those who seek to repair and heal fractured relationships between individuals, families, races, and ministries, in social, civic, and marketplace issues, and even in the nations.
1. We are to refuse to have an argumentative or contentious spirit or to push our will at all costs. We can make “godly appeals” to others in the right spirit, but not demand our way by pushing, arguing or complaining (Prov. 13:10; Rom. 12:18). We make peace in keeping with truth and righteousness, not ignoring it.
¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. (Rom. 12:18)
 2. Peacemakers will reveal what God is like to those around them. They will be “called sons of God”.
- D. **Enduring persecution** (“theirs is the kingdom,” Mt. 5:10-12) is to bear the counterattack for plundering Satan’s kingdom because we operate in power and/or stand for righteousness.
1. Jesus blesses any who will endure persecution for His sake with a rejoicing spirit. Persecution includes being penalized or harmed socially, verbally, financially, or physically. Most persecution in the West (as well as Taiwan) is social, verbal, or financial, by being reviled, resisted, or ostracized.
 2. Jesus tells us that persecution will come to us and teaches us how to respond appropriately by rejoicing.
 - a) Persecution produces perseverance and godly character in us in this age (Rom. 5:3-5)
³ And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ Now hope does not disappoint... (Rom. 5:3-5)
 - b) The Spirit of glory rests on those who are being persecuted (1 Pet. 4:14)
¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. (1 Pet. 4:14)

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c) Great eternal rewards will be received in the age to come (Rom. 8:17-18; 2 Cor. 4:16-18).

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (Rom. 8:18)

3. It is critical we are persecuted for righteousness sake, not because of standing for righteousness in the wrong spirit. Many times we are persecuted partially because we drew attention to ourselves, acted foolishly or extreme. We should see those who expose our areas of immaturity as God providing feedback.

E. Jesus invites “whoever,” i.e. everyone, to be great in His kingdom by walking in the Beatitudes (Mat. 5:19).

¹⁹ Whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments...shall be called least in the kingdom...whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom. (Mt. 5:19)