

Session 3 - Overview of the Sermon on the Mount - (Part 2 Mt. 6)

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)*

I. REVIEW

- A. The Sermon on the Mount is the constitution of God's kingdom. 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.
- B. Jesus calls us to live out the eight beatitudes: **being poor in spirit, spiritual mourning, walking in meekness, hungering for righteousness, showing mercy, embracing purity, being a peacemaker, and enduring persecution.**
- 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. 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 freely receive more grace.
- D. ⁴⁸***Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. (Mt. 5:48)*** The point Jesus is making is that we would seek to make it our primary life goal to walk in perfect obedience. Now that sounds a bit overwhelming and out of reach, but He's using the word ***perfect*** in our sense in a relative way. He's saying, "Walk in all the light that you have in every season of your spiritual life." God walks in all the light that He has, and you do the same. Now the good news is that when God gives us a command, there's always the promise of being able to obey the command. He never commands us to do anything that He won't help us to do. The point is this: these Beatitudes aren't out of reach of anyone, it is within your reach.

II. PURSUING 5 KINGDOM ACTIVITIES: WATERING OUR GARDEN (MT. 6:1-21)

- A. In Matthew chapter six Jesus exhorts us to engage in five activities that position our heart to receive more grace. These five activities are the necessary nutrients we need to bring the eight beautiful flowers (*the eight beatitudes*) in the garden of our heart to full maturity. The five activities are prayer, fasting, giving, serving, and blessing enemies. These Godly activities do not earn us God's love. However the more we do these things the more our hearts enlarge to experience more of His love and presence.
- B. **Giving & Serving** are part of being in God's kingdom. ¹⁴ *What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works... (James 2:14)* As believers we are commanded to be give our money & time, *Therefore, ****when**** you do a charitable deed... But ****when**** you do a charitable deed... (Mt. 6:2-3)* When we give our money and time to those in need, whether it's to individuals, the church, or other ministries we are making a statement that our money and time is not our own but it's God's. Jesus doesn't ask us to give charitably without promising to reward us, if we will do it in the right spirit. *That your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly. (Mt. 6:4)*
- C. **Prayer** is our eternal identity, Jesus in Matthew chapter twenty-one prophesied that His house (The Church) would be a house of prayer. Prayer is the primary way that we are to walk out our relationship with God personally, and corporately as the body of Christ. *And ****when**** you pray... Pray to your Father...and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly... (Mt. 6:5-6)*
- D. **Fasting** is the primary way to humble ourselves before God and express total dependence on Him rather than earthly things. Fasting should be a regular part of our weekly/monthly schedule. Fasting doesn't earn us anything or force God's hand to do something. *****when**** you fast... wash your face, ¹⁸so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. (Mt 6:17-18)*
- E. **Blessing our Enemies - Forgive men their trespasses... (Mt. 6:14)** This is the hardest and most challenging of all the five. Blessing our enemies is talking about blessing individuals who are close in proximity to our everyday lives, and even within the church who lie & steal from us. Those who wound us or hurt us in relationships. *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. (Mt.5:11-12)* To “rejoice and be exceedingly glad” is to release a blessing over those who have sinned against us. Jesus wants us to pray for them, forgive them and even give money or other things for their benefit. ¹⁹*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...²⁰Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven... (Mt. 6:4-20)*
- F. These Spiritual disciplines are ordained by God as a necessary way to posture our heart to freely receive more grace (Jas. 4:6). ⁶*He gives more grace...God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. (Jas. 4:6)*

III. LIVING IN THE LIGHT RELATED TO PROVISION & POSSESSIONS (MT. 6:22-34)

- A. ²²*The lamp [source of light] of the body is the eye [of the heart]. If your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! (Mt. 6:22-23)*
- B. God promises that anyone with a good eye will have a vibrant heart that is full of light. Having a good eye means that our primary life vision is to obey and teach the 8 Beatitudes—refusing the six temptations (Mt. 5:21-48) and pursuing the five kingdom activities (Mt. 6:1-20). The lamp that brings light to our heart is the “eye of our heart” and the body is our whole person.
- C. Scripture requires that we seek Jesus with confidence in His responsiveness to us (Heb. 11:6). *Without faith [confidence in God] it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Heb. 11:6)*
- D. Jesus addressed the necessity of pursuing wholehearted love and obedience to God with confidence—especially related to our finances and possessions (Mt. 6:20-34). He calls us to have confidence in His rewards (eternal and temporal; 6:20-24) and in His provision (6:24-33).
- E. How we pursue Jesus as related to finances is vital in sustaining grace to walk out the Beatitudes. God’s provision for us is necessary. Jesus calls us to escape the slavery for the fear of not having enough. Fear hinders our progress in walking out the Beatitudes in practical ways. *Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink... Do not worry, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?”... Your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Mt. 6:25-33)*