

Episode #718 Matthew 5 Part 1-Those Who Are Blessed

I. The purpose of the gospel of Matthew is to present Jesus as the Christ, the King of Israel. It is another grand treatise like John to prove to Israel Who Jesus really is. It is the book of being “in Israel,” in contrast to believers today who are “in Christ.”

II. The Lord resisted the devil’s temptations, called His disciples, and began His healing ministry. Today, we start our consideration of His great teaching session with His disciples commonly called the “Sermon on the Mount.”

III. Those Who Are Blessed.

- A. Matthew 5:1. Often when a crowd gathered the Lord got away from it.
 1. Which mountain is unnamed...the Mount of Olives? Mount Hermon? Or Mount Tabor? Corresponds to Sinai.
 2. He sat to teach. These were not the common people or new followers, but disciples who were already associated with Him.
 3. All who heard were Israelites. These were principles regarding God’s kingdom, whereas we live in the dispensation of grace. Everything He says cannot be applied directly to us, though we can learn some principles.
- B. Verse 2. This was the Lord teaching His disciples, not believers today. The Lord repeated some of these sayings on a different occasion (see Luke 6), but of course not all. No reason to assume these accounts ought to be identical. Is a preacher not allowed to repeat parts of a message on a different occasion?
- C. Verse 3. “Blessed” is a very nebulous word in English, and we cannot give a Greek definition because it actually translates two Greek words! Here it is the Greek *makarioi*, “how happy!” The spirit is connected with the mind or the mindset. The Lord is declaring a principle. Isaiah 66:1-2. No wonder it is called the “kingdom of the heavens”! These are the poor (humble, powerless) in spirit. Bullinger points out there are eight “beatitudes” corresponding to eight woes in Matthew 23. We will compare them when we get to that chapter.
- D. Verse 4. If you mourn now because of the way things are now, you will be comforted when you see how things will be in God’s kingdom. Comforted is as a paraclete does when he comes alongside to help, consoled.
- E. Verse 5. Meek, *praus*, can be mild or humble. The meek are the submissive; those who are not in opposition to God. They are like those in Psalm 1:1-2. See Psalm 37:9. In Exodus 20:12, it was the land the Lord thy God giveth thee. In Ephesians, it is just the earth, Ephesians 6:1-3.
- F. Verse 6. There is very little of this today. People want a certain portion of righteousness, such as to stop crime in the streets, so they can sit at home in peace and watch their immoral television programs. If people really hungered and thirsted for righteousness, they would seek the righteousness that is found by faith in Jesus Christ. Christ Himself loves righteousness, which is why God is pleased with Him, Psalm 45:7. “Filled” is like being satisfied with plenty of food. In this case, their desire for righteousness will be satisfied in God’s righteous kingdom.

IV. Conclusion: The Lord started His teaching of His disciples often called “The Sermon on the Mount.” He spoke of those who are blessed or “how happy” in relationship to His coming kingdom. Are we poor in spirit? Do we mourn over the sad condition of this world? Are we

submissive to God? Do we hunger and thirst for righteousness? If we do, Christ calls us happy. But if not? Let us pray that the Lord will develop a Godly character within us.