

Episode #719 Matthew 5 Part 2-Blessed Are You

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 was teaching His disciples on a mountain, what is commonly called the “Sermon on the Mount.” His teaching was for His disciples, every one an Israelite, and regarded the conduct of a disciple and in light of God’s coming kingdom. “Blessed” means “how happy!” Blessed are the poor in spirit, those who mourn now, the humble or submissive, and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Today, we will consider the last four beatitudes.

III. Those Who Are Blessed.

- A. Verse 7. The “merciful” are also the compassionate. Psalm 41:1. Mercy can be a kind of grace, though it can be deserved.
- B. Verse 8. “Clean” in heart, means in the inner being. Many people are half-hearted toward God. To “see” also means to understand and discern. With the eyes, literally, this will always be in the form of Jesus Christ.
- C. Verse 9. “Peace” comes from a verb that means “to join.” This is not about stopping wars, conflicts in marriage, or crime, though this would be good. These are those who seek to bring a person into a true, harmonious relationship with God. This has to do with being linked up with God by the One Mediator, the Lord Jesus Christ, I Timothy 2:5. More than trying to link them up with our churches or denominations. Called = named, positioned, designated. Sons = representatives of God.
- D. Verse 10. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (verse 6) are willing to be persecuted for it. Persecuted = *dioko*. The kingdom of heaven is heaven’s government
- E. Verse 11. The previous eight are generic, whereas this one is focused on the disciples.
- F. Verse 12. They did rejoice! Acts 5:40-41. In heaven is the best place to have your reward. This does not mean you have to go there to enjoy it. This means your reward is stored up with God. Note He assumes they will be prophets who would speak forth the Word of God. We too might experience similar reviling, though not prophets.
- G. Compare these eight beatitudes to the eight woes in Matthew 23:13-33.

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. They need to be merciful, clean in heart, peacemakers, and those who follow righteousness, even if they are persecuted. Do we love righteousness like the Lord said we should? Or are we caught up in the sinful pleasures of this world?