

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

Standing on the Promises of God - -

2 Chronicles 7:14 My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

The Sermon on the Mount was specifically for the disciples!

3 Points (in review) - -

1. The Sermon on the Mount is the King's inaugural address establishing the principles of His Messianic kingdom.
2. The sermon was designed for the disciples' education and training prior to being sent out to preach the kingdom message.
3. The sermon rejects the Pharisees' religious righteousness and corrects their interpretation of the Mosaic Law.

Matthew 5:1-

1 When Jesus **saw** [*perceived*] the crowds He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

2 He opened His mouth and *began* to teach them, saying,

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 gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive 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 have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you [*the disciples*] when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

12 "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

A few observations:

- Jesus is referring to immaterial dispositions of the human soul - one's attitude or mood.
 - ✓ 1st group of the *beatitudes* (vv. 4-6) deals with one's disposition toward **self**.
 - ✓ 2nd group of the *beatitudes* (vv. 7-12) deals with one's disposition toward **others** which is a result of one's personal disposition. Focuses on attitude toward others!
 - ✓ Group 2 is really dependent on group 1 - -

Example -

- Those who are *poor in spirit and those who mourn* (vv. 3-4) – attitude toward **self**.
- *Those who are merciful and those who are peacemakers* (vv. 7- 9) – your attitude toward **others** (which is dependent on your attitude, thinking, and disposition toward self).
- ✓ The Lord is referring to immaterial dispositions of the human soul.
- ✓ That's why these are called the Beatitudes.
 - Beatitude means a happy or blissful state *in the soul*.

Vs. 3. . .

3 **“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”**

➤ **Blessed** – μακάριος – MAKARIOS - “*Blessed, happy, or fortunate*”

- ✓ The ancient Greeks ascribed **MAKARIOS** to their gods who lived beyond labor and death.
- ✓ Their gods had everything they wanted or needed – fully satisfied.
- ✓ In our context, this refers to one who experiences a supernatural happiness, satisfaction, or contentment that is not based on the details of life. In other words – not based on. . .
 - How you are treated. . .
 - Your circumstances in life. . .
 - Promotion, health, or wealth. . .
- ✓ **MAKARIOS** is immaterial happiness or inner contentment where one is satisfied – having +H or perfect happiness.

The **“poor in spirit”** experience the happiness of God despite the details of life.

➤ **“Poor in spirit”** - οἱ πτωχοὶ τῷ πνεύματι

- ✓ **πτωχός** – PTOCHOS - “*beggar*” - one who is dependent upon another for material support.

In this context we are speaking about immaterial things and these **PTOCHOS** - *beggars* - are dependent upon another in spirit (τῷ πνεύματι). Spiritually dependent!

Why is a person spiritually dependent?

Because he knows that he has no righteousness of his own to stand on before God.

What did the Pharisees believe during this time?

They were righteous because of their own merit and their physical lineage as Abraham’s descendents. They strictly adhered to **their** religious rituals and observances. They possessed a righteousness that could be seen before men.

Isaiah 64:6 For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment. . .

The person who is **“poor in spirit”** – the spiritual beggar. . .

- ✓ Recognizes his own spiritual poverty - he knows he has nothing to offer God.
- ✓ He, therefore, turns in dependence upon Jesus as Messiah alone.

That’s why, **“ . . .for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”**

They are going to enter Messiah’s kingdom because they are dependent upon Messiah - Jesus Christ – in whom they have believed.

4 **“Blessed are those who mourn (*are mourning*), for they shall be comforted.”**

➤ **“Mourn”** - πενθέω – PENTHEO – “*to grieve or mourn*”

Why would someone grieve or mourn?

Because they realize their sinfulness.

What does this conviction result in?

Conviction results in confession.

The Hebrew frame of reference associates mourning or grieving with confession of sin (**Psalm 32**). The one who mourns is the one who confesses his sin.

Mourning or grieving will not restore you to fellowship, but confession of sin will.

Those who are morning **are blessed** because they agree with God about their thoughts, words, and actions - - and they confess them as sin, which is why **“... they shall be comforted.”**

Why are they comforted?

Because they know they are forgiven
Comforted from within

Psalm 32:1 How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!

Matthew 3:5-6

5 Then Jerusalem was going out to him [*John the Herald*], and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan; **6** and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.

Would the Pharisees confess their sins?

No!

4 “Blessed are those who **are mourning** . . .

- Those who agree with God about their actions and confess them as sin.

... for they shall be comforted.”

➤ **“Comforted”** – παρακαλέω – PARAKALEO – “To be encouraged by another”

- ✓ They will be encouraged by Another – in the kingdom.
- ✓ When they enter that kingdom
- ✓ When Jesus Christ is ruling it
- ✓ Jesus Christ will be the One comforting them.
- ✓ They will be encouraged because the King will assure them of forgiveness for their sins.

5 “Blessed are the **gentle**, for they shall inherit the earth.”

➤ **“Gentle”** – πραῦς – PRAUS – “humble or meek”

- ✓ The *humble* is someone who recognizes Christ’s authority over them and submits to Him.
- ✓ The *humble* does what He wants them to do.
- ✓ When He says “**believe in Me,**” they obey the command to believe in Him
- ✓ Those who submit to the authority of the King, “**they shall inherit the earth.**”

Where is Christ’s kingdom going to be established?

- ✓ On earth and He will rule that kingdom from David’s throne in fulfillment of 2 Samuel 7:12-13.
- ✓ Those who submit to the authority of the King will enter His kingdom – why? **They obey Him.**

2 Samuel 7:12-13 "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of His kingdom forever."

6 “Blessed are those who **are hungry** and **are thirsting** for righteousness.”

- They are used to convey a collective immaterial desire.
 - ✓ One is hungry (desires food).
 - ✓ One is thirsty (longs for drink).

6 “Blessed are those who **are hungry** and **are thirsting** for righteousness. . . for they shall be **satisfied**.”

- The Messianic King’s rule will be **characterized by righteousness.**

So, what are they thirsting for; what are they hungry for; what is their desire?

The righteousness they will experience when Jesus Christ is reigning from the kingdom He establishes.

“Satisfied” – χορτάζω – CHORTAZO – “To be satisfied”

They *will be* satisfied by the righteous reign of Jesus Christ when He establishes the kingdom.

Are there direct applications for us in this?

- Have you been persecuted?
- Has injustice been done to you?
- Do you ever long for **righteousness**?

That will help you to understand the Hebrew living at this time who was under oppression. They could not get any righteous judgments, so they **hungered** and **thirsted** for the righteous reign of Jesus Christ.

There are some indirect applications for us today, in light of the kingdom of His body that we are placed in at faith alone in Christ alone.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

The applications, therefore, are spiritual.

Note the disposition of those who are righteous -

- ✓ Those who are dependent upon God
- ✓ Those who are confessing their sins
- ✓ Those who recognize Christ's authority and long for His righteous reign

Our longing, as Church Age Believer Priests, is for the return of our Savior Jesus Christ – the resurrection of the Church!

This is their disposition toward others based on the fact that they are righteous. . .

- ✓ That Jesus is their King
- ✓ That they have His forgiveness
- ✓ And that they will enter the kingdom

⁷“Blessed are the **merciful**, for they shall receive mercy.

“**Merciful**” - One who is sympathetic to those who suffer legitimate need

- ✓ The Pharisees were merciless.
- ✓ The Pharisees had no sympathy for the needs of the . . .
 - Sick
 - Invalid
 - Poor
 - Downtrodden

Is God merciful?

- ✓ YES
- ✓ **POD - One who is merciful demonstrates divine sympathy for other subjects of Christ's kingdom who suffer legitimate need.**

Think of the spiritual gift of **mercy** - - or **helps** - - or **caregiver** - - or **prayer!**

- ✓ Therefore, the one who is merciful is manifesting a characteristic of divine righteousness.
- ✓ One has to be righteous to do that, doesn't he?

. . . they **shall receive mercy.**”

➤ **ἐλεέω** - Mercy will be extended to them in the kingdom. A promise!

- ✓ These subjects of the kingdom are beneficiaries of Christ's mercy.
- ✓ Beneficiaries of His loving care for them as His subjects in the kingdom

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.