

Beatitudes

Lessons 8 and 9

Introduction.

1. For the past 7 weeks we have been studying the beatitudes found in Matthew 5:3-9.
2. These beatitudes have been a blessing to all who have practiced them and they will be a blessing to us if we determine to accept and practice them.
 - a. It is not enough just to read or memorize them.
 - b. It is essential to put them in our hearts and actions.
3. Today we are ready to study the last two beatitudes found in Matthew 5. (Matt. 5:10-12).
4. These beatitudes teach happiness and rejoicing belong to those who practice the previous seven beatitudes.
5. The last two beatitudes are in logical sequence with the other beatitudes.
 - a. Jesus had uttered 7 previous beatitudes teaching men how to be happy and be right with God.

Matt 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matt 5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Matt 5:5 "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

Matt 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Matt 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Matt 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matt 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Matt 5:10 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- b. Those who practice these 7 beatitudes will be immeasurably blessed, but they will also be persecuted since they are not like the world.
- c. The world dislikes and even hates those who love righteousness and hate all forms of wickedness.

Eighth Beatitude

MAT 5:10 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- "for, for the sake of, because of" - Gr. "heneken" [hen eh ken]
- "theirs" is a clear reference to those "persecuted for the sake of righteousness."

1. It is not "blessed" to suffer persecution per se. (1 Pet. 4:13-16).

1 Pet 4:13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

1 Pet 4:14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

1 Pet 4:15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;

1 Pet 4:16 but if {anyone suffers} as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

2. It is “blessed” if we suffer persecution “for the sake of righteousness (doing right).”

a. It is not “blessed” to suffer for wrongdoing. (1 Pet. 4:15).

b. The Christian should rejoice and never be ashamed of suffering as a Christian. (1 Pet. 4:16).

c. The world hates Christians because they walk in the light and light exposes its evil deeds. (Jn. 3:19).

John 3:19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

3. “Theirs is the kingdom of heaven”

a. The word “heaven” is plural here in the original Greek and in Matthew 5:3.

b. Again it has a singular idea referring to where Deity and the angels dwell.

c. **Heaven is the home of the righteous.**

1) They will be given “the crown of life.” (Rev. 2:10).

Jesus said to the church at Smyrna.

Rev 2:10 “Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. **Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown [wreath] of life.**” **It is wonderful to win prizes or metals, but nothing compares to receiving “the crown [wreath] of life.**

2) They will “see God.” (Matt. 5:8; Rev. 22:4).

Matt 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Rev 22:4 they will see His face, and His name {will be} on their foreheads.

- God is not a fleshly being. (Matt. 16:13-17), but this does not mean God will be invisible in the spiritual realm.
- God is Spirit and those in heaven will have spiritual bodies. (1 Cor. 15:51-53).
- They will be able to see God then, but not now.

3) They will have “rest.” (Rev. 14:13).

Rev 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "**so that they may rest from their labors**, for their deeds follow with them."

- “Rest” does not mean we will have nothing to do.

- Nothing but “rest” is boring and not a part of God’s plan for the redeemed.

4) They will have the **privilege of worshiping God and His Son.** (Rev. 4:9-11).

Rev 4:9 And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever,

Rev 4:10 the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

Rev 4:11 "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

- What a thrill, what a blessing to have the privilege of worshiping the Father and the Son who are forever and ever.
- What a blessing to know we will enjoy God’s blessings forever and ever.

5) They will have **challenging work to do.** (Rev. 22:3).

Rev 22:3 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, **and His bond-servants will serve Him;**

6) They will have **no pain and no death.** (Rev. 21:4).

Rev 21:4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be {any} death; there will no longer be {any} mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

7) They will enjoy beauty beyond human comprehension. (Rev. 21 & 22).

8) They will enjoy these blessings forever. (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 22:5).

Matt 25:46 "These will go away into eternal punishment, **but the righteous into eternal life.**"

Rev 22:5 “And there will no longer be {any} night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and **they will reign forever and ever.**”

Ninth Beatitude

- Some view this beatitude as a part of the eighth beatitude.
- It seems best to consider it a ninth beatitude based on the word “blessed” that Jesus used to begin each beatitude.

MAT 5:11 "Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me.

1. Those who are persecuted for the sake of Christ will be blessed.
2. The accusations of evil must be “false” to be a blessing. (1 Pet. 4 :15, 16).

1 Pet 4:15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;

1 Pet 4:16 but if {anyone suffers} as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

3. Persecution can come in many different forms.

Insults/verbal abuse	Threats to self or family	Physical abuse - beatings of self or family.
Humiliation	Imprisonment	Alienation - avoided by family, friends, neighbors.
False Accusations	Financial - loss of job, property seized	Death

4. Christians are suffering all of these things all over the world today.

MAT 5:12 "Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

1. The words "rejoice, and be glad" seem strange, but Jesus was preparing His disciples for persecution and for how they should view persecutions.

a. Christians should rejoice because no persecution can compare to the greatness and blessings of heaven.

b. The apostles recognized this fact. (Acts 5:40-41).

Acts 5:40 They took his [Gamaliel's] advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and {then} released them.

Acts 5:41 So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for {His} name.

c. Christians should also rejoice because suffering develops character and strength. (Jas. 1:2-4).

James 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

James 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

James 1:4 And let endurance have {its} perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2. Many Christians suffer immensely in this world.

a. Jesus suffered greatly.

1) He was very poor and He did not even have a place to lay His head. (Matt. 8:20).

Matt 8:20 Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air {have} nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

2) He was ridiculed, scoffed and humiliated.

3) He was beaten, scourged and crucified.

b. The apostles and many early Christians suffered all kinds of persecutions.

1) Imprisonment (Acts 9:1-2).

Acts 9:1 Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest,

Acts 9:2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

2) Flogging (Acts 5:40; 16:33).

3) Death (Acts 7:58; 12:1-2).

Stephen

Acts 7:58 When they had driven him out of the city, they {began} stoning {him;} and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

James The Brother Of John And The Son Of Zebedee

Acts 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church in order to mistreat them.

Acts 12:2 And he had James the brother of John put to death with a sword.

4) Loss of property, jobs, etc. (Acts 8:1).

Acts 8:1 Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and **they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.**

5) Being **considered the scum of the earth.** (1 Cor. 4:11-13).

1 Cor 4:11 To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless;

1 Cor 4:12 and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure;

1 Cor 4:13 when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs [filth] of all things, {even} until now.

c. We are warned to expect it. (2 Tim. 3:12; Jn. 15:18-20).

2 Tim 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

John 15:18 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before {it hated} you.

John 15:19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

John 15:20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

3. The reward is "in heaven." Lit. "heavens"

a. "Reward" is not earned, but it is given by God's grace to those who have done His will and endured persecution.

b. It is described as "great."

1) Nothing else could possibly compare to the greatness of heaven.

2) Christians will be with God, and enjoy great and everlasting blessings.

c. Heaven is forever. (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 22:5).

Matt 25:46 "These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Rev 22:5 And there will no longer be {any} night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

4. They should not be shocked at this suffering because even the godly “prophets” before them had suffered.
 - a. This should make them realize that persecution would come.
 - b. It should also motivate them to be faithful in persecution as the prophets were.

Note:

1. We should not seek persecution, but it will come to those who live godly lives.
2. Persecution is not a sign of God’s displeasure, but most often a sign of our life in Christ.
3. The persecutions of this life may be horrible, but they do not compare to the glorious blessings of heaven.
4. Heaven is “very much better.” (Phil. 1:21-23).

Phil 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Phil 1:22 But if {I am} to live {on} in the flesh, this {will mean} fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose.

Phil 1:23 But I am hard-pressed from both {directions,} having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for {that} is very much better

Additional Notes

1. Christians in America and some other places in the world have suffered little physical persecution.
2. This is not true historically or in the world today.
3. Millions of people in the world have limited or no freedom to openly serve the Lord.
4. Millions of people are oppressed or severely persecuted because of their faith in Jesus.
5. Some are tortured, imprisoned or put to death because of their faith in Jesus.
6. We should pray for them and help them in every possible way..
7. We should not seek persecution, but we must never compromise our allegiance to Christ to avoid persecution.
8. We must obey the laws of the land unless they violate God’s law. (Acts 5:29).

Acts 5:29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "**We must obey God rather than men.**"

9. We must never be ashamed of Christ nor the gospel of Christ. (Mk. 8:38; Rom. 1:16).

Mark 8:38 "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will

also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Conclusion

1. May this study of these 9 beatitudes make our attitude and conduct more godly and pleasing God our number one priority in life.
2. May the study of these beatitudes teach us how to obtain happiness now and in eternity.

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