

## **"The Sermon on the Mount"**

### **The Beatitudes**

#### **Part 9**

#### **Matthew 5:1-12**

**Introduction:** Tonight we have come to the final study of the Beatitudes. We have looked so far at 7 Beatitudes here in Matthew 5.

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
3. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
4. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
5. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

These 7 Beatitudes are all characteristics of the believer who is under the control of the Spirit of God. This list of Beatitudes is a description of what our lives should look like as we walk in fellowship with our Lord. The result is an inward joy that goes beyond what words can describe. Jesus gives to us in this sermon the way to a life full of joy and satisfaction. As we abide in Him the Holy Spirit will then produce through us the fruit of the Spirit.

#### **John 15:4**

*<sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

## **John 15:11**

*<sup>11</sup> These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

Now as we live in fellowship with the Lord and the Spirit of God is controlling our lives we must understand that we will face opposition. Satan and his demonic spirits will do all they can to prevent us from living in fellowship with our Lord. Why? Because it is when we are in fellowship and controlled by the Spirit that people around us are able to see Christ in us. Satan hates Jesus and he hates us when we live in a way that Jesus is seen through us. Therefore he will use whomever he can to bring opposition against us. It is in the midst of the opposition that we face we must remember that the battle we are in is not against flesh and blood but it is against the spiritual powers of the dark world.

## **Ephesians 6:10-12**

*<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*

*<sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

*<sup>12</sup> For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

There is yet another reason we can expect opposition and that is because when we live in fellowship with our Lord our lifestyle convicts those around us who are not in fellowship or who are not saved.

Therefore, we must keep in mind that as we move closer to the Lord

and the Spirit controls more of our lives we are going to meet opposition.

All of this brings us to the last of the Beatitudes tonight.

### **Notice Matthew 5:10**

Last week we looked at the "peacemakers" and how peacemaking is one of the evidences of being saved. Here in Matthew 5:10 we find another evidence of salvation and that is persecution for what we stand for and how we live.

There are people today that teach a "prosperity gospel" that is nothing but a lie. They attempt to use the Bible to show that as we believers we will never suffer and if we do suffer it is because we lack faith. Don't you dare buy into that even for a moment! The Bible is very clear that when we are living a life of godliness we will face opposition and persecution.

### **2 Timothy 3:12**

*<sup>12</sup> Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

When we stand up for the Gospel and we stand up for the Truth we can expect to suffer.

Now there are many forms of suffering in this world but the suffering that Jesus is referring to here comes from living out the characteristics found in the preceding verses. We must also know that the persecution spoken of here is not just physical but it can also be mental but it all comes as a result of a spiritual battle.

### **Examples:**

There may come a day when we will experience physical persecution for the stand we take for the Lord. Many in this world suffer under this kind of persecution every day. In our society today it is rare we hear of a believer being physically beaten for his or her faith but there is persecution today and it is in the form of verbal attacks and discrimination. If you go out to share the Gospel you do not need to go very far until you will find opposition. To sit here in the comfort of this church building you may think that verbal attacks are not really persecution but I have experienced them and they can shake your faith if you are not prepared for the battle. People can say things that will stay in your mind for a long time. Then there is the discrimination that goes on today against those who are outspoken about their faith and in the companies where they work they are treated differently and sometimes unfairly.

Then there are the attacks in the mind by the enemy and they can be some of the most difficult to endure. The enemy can oppress us within our minds and that oppression can be very difficult to endure.

But we must understand that the persecution that comes into our lives is a sign that we are of the family of God and this is not our home but heaven is our home and there is coming a day when God will wipe away all tears from our eyes.

### **Revelation 21:3-4**

*<sup>3</sup> And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

*4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

Jesus could then say; "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake" because that very persecution shows we belong to God and the kingdom of heaven is ours.

### **Notice Matthew 5:11-12**

Now we need to notice there is a change in the wording here. In verse 10 it was "they" but here it is "ye" and "you". Jesus seems to focus this part of His sermon directly at His disciples.

### **Notice Matthew 5:1**

There is a great multitude but in the midst of the crowd are Jesus' disciples. So in these verses He seems to be speaking directly to them. But at the same time we must understand that what Jesus is saying also applies to our lives as well.

If we notice verse 11 closely it appears as though Jesus is speaking of what these men will encounter down the road. Notice that He uses the word "shall" and not the word "if".

In verses 11-12 Jesus tells His disciples there is joy in suffering. How can this be true? That is the opposite of what our world teaches. The world today teaches that we need to do all we can to escape suffering. Jesus tells His disciples to rejoice when they suffer. Is it possible to rejoice in suffering and if so what is the bases for the rejoicing for it certainly cannot be the circumstances.

### **Acts 5:40-41**

*<sup>40</sup> And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.*

*<sup>41</sup> And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.*

**Now the human side of me wonders how we can find joy in suffering. This is an answer that all of us need to understand. Where is the joy found in suffering for the name of Jesus?**

**In the Scriptures there are several reasons listed as to why we can rejoice in suffering for the name of Christ:**

**1. We have the Spirit of God to minister to us in the suffering.**

**1 Peter 4:13**

*<sup>13</sup> But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.*

*<sup>14</sup> If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.*

The Holy Spirit will often teach us some of the most important lessons in the valleys of life that is in those times of suffering. Remember the soil is the richest in the valleys and it is in the rich soil that fruit grows. Our greatest growth will happen not in the mountain top experiences but it will happen in the valleys under the storms of life.

**2. The comfort in the sufferings equips us to help others.**

**1 Corinthians 1:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> *Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;*

<sup>4</sup> *Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*

We must always keep in mind that when we go through sufferings for the name of Christ one thing that happens is we become experienced and equipped so as to reach out to others who go through the same things.

### **3. The suffering is used by God to make us like Christ.**

#### **Romans 8:35-37**

<sup>35</sup> *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

<sup>36</sup> *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

<sup>37</sup> *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

How are we more than conquerors?

#### **Romans 8:28-29**

<sup>28</sup> *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.*

<sup>29</sup> *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

We are more than conquerors because the sufferings of this life are used by God to mold us into the image of Jesus Christ. There is never a situation that happens in our lives that God does not use.

**4. The rewards in heaven are connected to the sufferings of this life.**

### **Matthew 5:12**

*<sup>12</sup> Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

**5. The suffering we go through now manifests the life of Christ in us.**

### **2 Corinthians 4:8-10**

*<sup>8</sup> We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;*

*<sup>9</sup> Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;*

*<sup>10</sup> Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.*

Someone may ask, "How do the sufferings manifest the life of Christ?" The answer is that when we suffer and we **submit** to the suffering we are demonstrating the characteristics of Jesus with our lives (Remember He was **LED** as a lamb to the slaughter, He was not **DRAGGED**). But it is not we ourselves that are able to manifest Christ but the Spirit within us. We are only vessels through which the Spirit of God lives the life of Jesus. Our responsibility is to die to self.

**Conclusion:**

I am convinced when we get to heaven and we have a full understanding of Scripture we will understand how foolish we were to stress out over sufferings and the problems of this life. If we could learn to walk by faith in the Word of God we would trust God with all that we face. If we actually grasp the Words of the Bible with our hearts we could save ourselves a lot of worry.

Here is the bottom line, we are children of God and we are loved by Him far more than we can imagine. Everything we encounter is for our good and His glory. We can never be taken from His hand and we will always have our needs met by Him. He promises us a future glory that far outweighs our suffering.

**Romans 8:18**

*<sup>18</sup> For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*