

Sermon January 29, 2023

Matthew 5 :1-12

“The Beatitudes of Christ”

Why did Jesus leave the crowds and go to the mountains with only his disciples? Lots of speculation, but what is truly important is what he taught up on the mountain.

He was giving his trusted 12 disciples the foundation of his future teachings as to who he was, what we are to learn together and continue to learn as his children each time we worship him and read his scriptures.

This teaching and others that follow from chapters in Matthew from 5 - 7 are our foundation our unity as a church body! United in cause because of who Jesus Christ is, he calls blessed are those who act as he teaches us to do both in word and actions towards our fellow brothers and sisters to our neighbors !

Matthew 5: 2

***2 “ and he began to teach them.”***

Jesus is starting his ministry and puts forth nine points of foundational teachings and more a way of life for all that chose to follow him. Not just to hear his teachings but receive this Godly wisdom through the Holy Spirit this is the true starting point of faith in Jesus as our true savior.

Jesus stated the word “Blessed” in the beginning of each of the nine beatitudes because just as the disciples were blessed by God in their following of his instructions throughout their ministries.

Each of us in following Jesus Christ's teachings are also blessed and the amazing grace given to us that at times can't fully understand or even recognize how much we are blessed!

There will be at various times in our lives that we will not be able to explain that feeling of peace and calm! This will follow us now and through eternity with him!

Matthew 5:3

***"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."***

To be poor of spirit to know we are sinners and continue to fail to live by the law but one who is poor in spirit and humble of heart has a meek spirit and does not think too greatly of himself. On the other hand one who thinks of himself to be rich in the spirit is proud and puffed up with self righteous.

Luke 18:10-14

*<sup>10</sup> "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'*

*<sup>13</sup> "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'<sup>14</sup> "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt" themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."*

Matthew 5: 4

***“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”***

When we think of this we first think of our self our own grief or sadness of a loss. This can be but the blessing that Jesus is talking about is of mourning for others that are lost, with our Christ in their lives .

That to have a hard heart a closed mind to God. Who God gives over to their own evil of heart and mind. We mourn the loss of family members, dear friends and neighbors that are lost.

God will comfort us who when we seek the

Matthew 5: 5

***“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”***

Those who are gentle and humble in their ways, who do not waver from their faith in times of trouble.

Matthew 11: 29

*Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

The meek in spirit in spite of experiencing wrongful acts against them will not be provoke to do evil in retaliation.

“Forgive them for they no not what they do”

To inherit eternity with him!

Matthew 5: 6

***“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.***

To seek after justice not just to say it as others call for punishment for wrongdoers who do evil. But to hunger for true Godly righteousness, that

forgives and renews the sinner to true repentance . We all who believe in Jesus to restore are loved ones and fellow brothers and Sisters to repent and seek after righteous one Jesus Christ! We will know peace!

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Matthew 5: 7

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

To be forgiving to show compassion to others inspite of what was done by them to you. It is easy to show love and compassion to others that do the same to you in your own families and close friends.

But it’s not easy at all to show the same to a stranger or someone who has betrayed or has stolen from you. Very hard but yet, we have heard of stories of true forgiveness by victims of crime to strangers who have been the perpetrator.

Luke 6: 35-36

*But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”*

You in turn will receive the peace of God!

Matthew 5: 8

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

The pure of heart not the perfect of heart. Hear what that statement means not one that thinks of themselves as perfect in always forgiving as they think of themselves. But knowing they are not pure of heart but ever going before the Lord Jesus asking for his mercy towards others and in-turn coming closer to him!

Pride vs. Humility

Matthew 5: 9

***“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons<sup>[a]</sup> of God.”***

Our church fathers stated this so eloquently :

The peacemakers are theow who standing apart from the stumbling block of disagreement and discord, guard the affection of the fraternal love and the peace of the church under the unity of the universal faith.

And the lord in the Gospel particularly urges his disciples to guard this peace, saying “I give you my peace; I leave you my peace”

David: Psalm 85: 8

*“Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.” To all the unity we have here at Pinnacle!*

Matthew 5: 10

***“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”***

For all that have gone before us with courage in the face of death and proclaim the word of God, the truth of God and their own true faith. Persecution comes in so many forms most of what we here in the United States suffer the subtle and sometimes not so subtle verbal persecution.

But I always recall Columbine shooting!

Matthew 5: 11 - 12

***“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.***

We see this we feel this, and we can react in so many different ways to this hate that is in the world. For the ongoing violence that we hear of within this country and world.

How do we react? Look to the Beatitudes of Christ!