



# THE SERMON

*on the Mount*

*The Upside-down Kingdom*

# The Greatest Sermon Ever Preached...

- Setting & Background

- Jesus is at the beginning of his teaching ministry
- People have witnessed great miracles and heard amazing teaching and Jesus has become famous (Mat 4:23-25)
- People from all over the country were following him around to see and hear him
- Sermon takes place in the hills around Sea of Galilee
- Jesus climbs a hillside and sits down to teach
- The sermon is directed to his disciples, not the crowds

- Introduction to the Kingdom of God

- The upside-down kingdom
- The New Covenant

**Jeremiah 31:31-34...** <sup>31</sup> “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup> not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. <sup>33</sup> For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

## Matthew 5:1-12

“Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.



## Matthew 5:1-12

<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> 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.”

## The Beatitudes... Who is blessed?

### 1. Blessed are the poor in spirit...

- Our culture (unfortunately the church culture as well) values strength, togetherness, wealth and glamour
- Spiritually bankrupt
- Hitting rock-bottom
- A realization of your true need of God is a blessed place to be
- We bring nothing to the table except humble brokenness

## The Beatitudes... Who is Blessed?

### 1. Blessed are the poor in spirit...

### 2. Blessed are those who mourn...

- An understanding and acknowledgement of one's sin with the appropriate response – repentance
- 2 Cor 7:10... For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.
- James 4:8-10... <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. <sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

## The Beatitudes... Who is Blessed?

**1. Blessed are the poor in spirit...**

**2. Blessed are those who mourn...**

**3. Blessed are the meek...**

- Gentleness and humility are attributes of the meek
- The world sees meekness as weakness as they appear to be a “doormat”
- The meek do not assert themselves over others in an attempt to get their own way
- They trust God to direct the outcome



## The Beatitudes... Who is Blessed?

- 1. Blessed are the poor in spirit...**
- 2. Blessed are those who mourn...**
- 3. Blessed are the meek...**
- 4. Blessed are those who desire righteousness...**
  - “hunger” and “thirst” reflect a type of base need desperation
  - Real righteousness belongs to God alone, not self-righteousness!
  - Our culture offers us a lot of things that can never satisfy our hunger

## The Beatitudes... Who is Blessed?

- 1. Blessed are the poor in spirit...**
- 2. Blessed are those who mourn...**
- 3. Blessed are the meek...**
- 4. Blessed are those who desire righteousness...**
- 5. Blessed are the merciful...**
  - Authority, power and justice (you get what you deserve) are valued by the world, but the disciple of Jesus desires mercy
  - Jesus' disciples are recipients of his mercy and are expected to reflect this in their new way of life

## The Beatitudes... Who is Blessed?

- 1. Blessed are the poor in spirit...**
- 2. Blessed are those who mourn...**
- 3. Blessed are the meek...**
- 4. Blessed are those who desire righteousness...**
- 5. Blessed are the merciful...**
- 6. Blessed are the pure in heart...**
  - Pure in heart is something only God can see, but points toward someone who's allegiance is fully to Jesus himself
  - A truly pure heart can only come from Jesus' own heart
  - The religious people of the day were consumed with outward purification rather than inward

## **The Beatitudes... Who is Blessed?**

### **Psalm 24:3-6...**

- <sup>3</sup> Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?  
Who may stand in his holy place?
- <sup>4</sup> The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not trust in an idol  
or swear by a false god.
- <sup>5</sup> They will receive blessing from the Lord  
and vindication from God their Savior.



## The Beatitudes... Who is Blessed?

- 1. Blessed are the poor in spirit...**
- 2. Blessed are those who mourn...**
- 3. Blessed are the meek...**
- 4. Blessed are those who desire righteousness...**
- 5. Blessed are the merciful...**
- 6. Blessed are the pure in heart...**
- 7. Blessed are the peacemakers...**
  - Actively pursuing peace – not just peaceful people
  - Reconciliation is the goal of the peacemaker
  - Promoting God's Messianic peace (shalom) is scoffed at but the disciple's perspective of life changes this

## The Beatitudes... Who is Blessed?

1. **Blessed are the poor in spirit...**
2. **Blessed are those who mourn...**
3. **Blessed are the meek...**
4. **Blessed are those who desire righteousness...**
5. **Blessed are the merciful...**
6. **Blessed are the pure in heart...**
7. **Blessed are the peacemakers...**
8. **Blessed are you when others persecute you...**
  - The faithful have always been persecuted
  - God is not blind to his children being hurt for his sake
  - The reward is great, so hang in there!

## The Point of the Beatitudes...

### 1. You are blessed if you are in Christ

- God's care, deliverance and provision to us does not change because of our circumstances or conditions. For those who are in Christ, you are blessed beyond measure with Christ himself!
- Since our true identity and hope is found in Christ, it can never be taken away – ever!
- Ephesians 1:1-14... We are blessed with every spiritual blessing! (holy, blameless, adoption, redemption, forgiveness, inheritance, sealed with the Holy Spirit)

## The Point of the Beatitudes...

1. You are blessed if you are in Christ

2. Perspective is everything

- Jesus wants us to see life differently than the world because the world's view of life and who is blessed is upside-down
- Our perspective changes when our eyes are opened and we can see that God's New Kingdom is the true reality
- A person will not understand the rest of Jesus' sermon without this perspective change