

The Sermons of Jesus
Lesson I
The Sermon on the Mount – Matthew Ch. 5-7

Matthew 5:3-11 is commonly called “The Beatitudes”, a word not in the original Greek, but later in the Latin vulgate meaning blessed or happy. John the Baptist and Jesus had been teaching repentance, meaning turn away from previous attitudes concerning sin, religion and salvation. Change your mind about what you previously thought. Now in this sermon, Jesus will give the right attitude and way of thinking of the citizens of the “Kingdom of Heaven”.

Read Matthew 5:3-11

1. In the day of Jesus, both Greek culture and Jewish culture taught the importance of material blessing, personal accomplishment and pride, all in relation to religion. Contrast Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 5:3-11 with the predominant philosophic religion of man.
2. What do you think “poor in spirit” (v.3) means? What does the rest of the Bible have to say about this concept (Matt. 23:12, Psalms 138:6, James 4:6-10, 1Peter 5:5)? How was David poor in spirit (2 Samuel 12:13, 16; Psalms 32:1-5, 51:1-4)?
3. What would be some types of “mourning” (v4) that God would bless (1 John 1:9, Romans 8:17-23, Revelation 21:3-4)? How did the woman who was crying in Luke 7:37-48 epitomize what Jesus is teaching about mourning?
4. In Matthew 5:5, “the meek” (=gentle), means those who yield or submit, therefore the opposite of self willed. To be meek is to submit to the Lord, yield your life to the Lord. How did Paul verbalize this in Galatians 2:20 and 2 Cor. 5:15? Although David was a warrior, in what sense was he meek (submissive)? (1 Samuel 24: 4-12, Psalms 27:11-14)
5. What beautiful image did David use in Psalms 42:1-2 to express his great soulful desire for the Lord? In Matthew 5:6, Jesus is speaking of a “hunger and thirst” of the soul for something we don’t have but desire. How did Paul satisfy that hunger for righteousness? (Philippians 3:8-9)

6. Mercy (v7) is not getting what you deserve. Mercy is giving good for evil, love for hatred, pardon for injury. How did the “good Samaritan” show mercy (Luke 10:33-35)? What was the greatest act of mercy (Matthew 26:28, Colossians 2:13, 1 John 2:12 and Rev. 1:5)?
7. In Matthew 5:8, the “heart” is the image of the inner man, the soul and spirit of a person, where our thoughts, emotions and motivations originate. What did David pray for in Psalms 51:10? What is the natural condition of the heart of all men (Jeremiah 17:9, Eph. 2:1-2)?
8. What honest man can say that his thoughts and intentions are pure and holy? Therefore, how has God chosen to “create in me a clean heart”? 2 Cor. 5:21 and Romans 6:4-7.
9. Biblically, since the fall of Adam in Genesis 3, there has been no peace between God and man, or man and man. Since sin caused the enmity between God and Man, what must be removed before peace can come? Who has made it possible for sin to be removed, and for us to have peace with God and man (Romans 5:1 and Colossians 1:20)? Since Jesus has brought peace into our lives, what does He expect of us (Romans 12:18)?
10. Jesus promised all these blessings and happiness upon those who are conscious of their spiritual poverty and need, grieve over it and seek righteousness from Christ. What did Jesus promise “holier than thou” religious hypocrites who thought they could achieve righteousness themselves (Matthew 23:13-33)?

