

The Beattitudes – Our Hope of Reward

Matthew chapters 4-6.

- Jesus was tempted but used word of God for victory over Satan.
- Jesus began **preaching repentance**, for Kingdom of heaven is at hand.
- Jesus calls brothers Simon Peter and Andrew.
- Jesus Calls brothers James and John.
- Jesus **teaches** throughout Galilee, **teaching** in synagogues, **proclaiming gospel** of Kingdom, healing diseases and sicknesses among people.
- Fame spread, healed and delivered all.
- Large crowds followed him from many areas.
- With disciples, sitting on mountain top in galilee.

Jesus worked out of a new wineskin. He taught the gospel of the Kingdom, calling for repentance as did the prophets who went before him and his forefathers. He did the Father's works among the people, working healing and deliverances to manifest the heart of the Lord God of Israel. He worked infallible proofs as the witness of His Father, who was again crying to the people to walk in His ways and have His heart. Jesus was a new wineskin Rabbi. By healing all who came to Him, He proved the deepest mercy and compassion for the poor, the sick and defeated, and displayed the power of God over the work of the devil in their lives.

Jesus preached the constitution of the kingdom of Heaven. He described the character and nature of Himself as King, the He described the character of people gaining citizenship and living in that kingdom. These people find no place in the kingdoms of this world. They wander as pilgrims only able to live within one kingdom that is not fully manifested on earth yet.

The Beatitudes are contradictions. Each describes the Heart of God, the character of Jesus Christ that we attain by His power, His heart working in us. Our heart and soul is to see Father and Son glorified without wanting glory for ourselves. But the Father has promised blessings or rewards for faithful servants.

Mat 5:5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

Citizens of the Kingdom of God are meek or gentle people of a quiet spirit (1 Pet 3:4), having no desire for notoriety or pre-eminence, but having hearts of servants, honouring God and neighbours above themselves. (Matt 22:37-39). In all this the motives of the heart are pure with the true love of God being outworked for the glory of God.

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1Co 1:27-29 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, (28) and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, (29) so that no man may boast before God.

Inherit earth . *Heb 11:13-16* speaks of the Old Covenant forefathers of faith knowing that they were pilgrims and strangers on this earth. (v14) says, "For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country (a fatherland) of their own.... (v16) But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them."

I believe the forefathers knew of or even saw the inheritance God had for the citizens of the Kingdom of God.

Rev 21:1-2 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. (2) And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

The Old Covenant forefathers and prophets fought through doubts, fears and persecution, but obeyed the will of God, because they were willing to submit to receive blessings and promises in their lifetime, but also because they knew there was incredible reward awaiting them in the Kingdom of God. They had faith that obedience to Almighty God would result in citizenship in a kingdom beyond understanding.

In Mat 5:10-12 Jesus exhorts us to follow in the attitude of the prophets of old. **"Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (11) "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. (12) "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

Jesus exhorts us to desire to be filled with His righteousness, rather than self preservation, or selfishness. We are to deny our flesh in this world and seek diligently for His purity and righteousness.

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

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We can use forefather Moses as an example. Scripture says in [Heb 11:24-26](#), that Moses chose "to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, (26) considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward."

We are rewarded for hungering and thirsting after God, denying our own desires, and living in the character and nature of Jesus Christ.

Jesus explains with a parable. **Mat 5:13** ***"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men."***

Salt preserves and purifies. It is used to preserve foods so they can be eaten later. This points to us preserving the Kingdom of God on earth, preserving God's character and Name, just as the prophets of old did. The preserving is fulfilled in hearing, obeying and doing. We eat the word of God today because it has been preserved throughout the ages for us to still eat and drink its fullness.

We are to assemble as the army of God, guarding the word of God and Who He is, with the weapons He has given us, with His strength and our lives.

In bible days there was knowledge that salt from the Dead Sea could not be used as a preservative. It contains other minerals that make it really unpalatable or tasteless. It is not useful, as it is salt that has been added to. We are to preserve God's Word in truth and integrity, without changing it, or making it more appealing to the world today. But contaminated salt is great for killing plants and spreading on roads and pathways to be trampled by travellers.

Throughout history there has been a contingent of faithful men and women, who upheld the integrity of God's word and character and would even be persecuted or die for devotion to Almighty God. Jesus is commanding his disciples and followers to be active, devoted to preserving His word, and keeping doctrines and teachings pure and unadulterated.

What reward is there in being righteous, pure, poor, merciful? We will be called sons of God, peacemakers, we will see God! We can live in His Kingdom now and in the future.

Rom 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

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1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

Jesus knew that persecution and death awaited him. He is the great Prophet. He spoke truth and holiness boldly, declaring the blessings for those willing to be humble and repentant, thirsting after righteousness. He preached with great joy; He knew His faithful Father and knew His reward.

Hebrews 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Beatitudes declare Jesus Christ Himself. He IS the beatitudes. Through his humility He saw and knew His Father, He was filled with righteousness; He came as peacemaker bringing peace between the Father and mankind. He IS peace and purity. He sits at the right hand of the throne of God having inherited the Kingdom of God, and now inherits the Earth in meekness and gentleness. Now He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords over His Kingdom for eternity.