

PORTRAIT OF A KINGDOM CITIZEN (Part 1)

Matthew 5:3-6

I. The CONVENTIONAL WISDOM overturned by The King

- A. The favor of God is bestowed on a narrowly-defined group of the _____.
- B. Blessing is related to _____ circumstances (Sirach 25:7-11)

II. The “BEATITUDES” of Jesus – Overview

A. Structural Elements

1. Each beatitude consists of a brief proclamation expressed in two poetic clauses.
 - a. First clause: a description of those declared to be blessed (characteristic).
 - b. Second clause: a reason that spells out the specific nature of the blessing. The reason corresponds to and correlates with the characteristic.
2. There are eight blessings (plus an expansion on the final one)
 - a. Scholars group the beatitudes into two groups of four.
 - 1) Group 1 (vss, 3-6): describe the disciples’ _____ relationship to _____.
 - 2) Group 2 (vss. 7-12): emphasize the disciples’ _____ relationship to _____
 - b. The first and eighth beatitudes conclude with the same promise: “for theirs in the kingdom of heaven.” This “inclusion” brackets the other beatitudes and applies that promise to them as well.
 - c. Different verb tenses are found in the promise segment of each beatitude.
 - 1) The first and final beatitudes employ the *present* tense – pointing to the present _____ experience of God’s rule (“already”).
 - 2) The intermediate beatitudes use the *future* tense which underscores the _____ of the promises and the _____ fulfillment of kingdom blessings in the future (“not yet”).

B. The Meaning of “Beatitudes”

1. Terminology

- a. “Beatitude” comes from the Latin, *beatus* (pl. *beati* – the first word in each verse of the Vulgate).
- b. The Greek word in the original text is *makarios*: It is usually translated “blessed.” Other renderings include: happy, fortunate, favored, approved, “congratulations!”
- c. Main idea of “blessed” = “_____”. “To be blessed is to be the joyful recipient of divine favor or approval.”

2. Points of Clarification

- a. Emphasis is not on a _____ of happiness, but rather on the _____ of living under God’s rule.
- b. Jesus is not describing how to _____ God’s blessing, but rather the impact of God’s _____ in the life of the disciple who submits to His rule.
- c. These blessings convey an implied _____ to those who have contrary characteristics. The opposite of “blessed” is not “unhappy” but “_____.” See Luke 6:24-26).

C. The People Described

1. The characteristics commended are not physical or circumstantial states, but _____.
2. He is not talking about _____ groups of disciples, but eight qualities of _____ group.
3. He is not talking about the spiritually elite, but the spiritually _____.

III. The VERTICAL BEATITUDES – Analysis

A. “The poor in Spirit” (5:3)

1. O.T. Antecedent: Isaiah 61:1-3
2. Meaning: _____; utterly dependent upon God.
3. Contrast (Opposite): _____ (Luke 6:24)
4. Blessing: **“theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”**
5. Example: The _____ of Luke 18:13
6. “Already” (Provision): _____ salvation (Grace now.)
7. “Not Yet” (Promise): _____ (Glory later.)

B. “Those who mourn” (5:4)

1. O.T. Antecedent: Isaiah 61:1-3
2. Meaning: Those who are grieved by the impact of _____ (their own and others)
3. Contrast (Opposite): _____
4. Blessing: **“they shall be comforted”**
5. Example: _____ (Matthew 26:75; John 21)
6. “Already” (Provision): _____, restoration, recovery
7. “Not Yet” (Promise): “No more _____, no more _____” (Rev. 21:3-4; Psalm 16:11)

C. “The meek” (5:5)

1. O.T. Antecedent: Psalm 37:1-11
2. Meaning: An unassuming humility that rests in God and renounces _____ to relieve one’s oppression and to achieve one’s desires.
3. Contrast (Opposite): Domineering _____
4. Blessing: **“they shall inherit the earth”**
5. Example: _____ (Mat 11:29; Phil 2:5-8; 1 Pet. 2:23; Heb. 12:2).
6. “Already” (Provision): Present enjoyment of _____ and spiritual inheritance (Eph. 1:18; Col. 1:12; Heb. 9:15)
7. “Not Yet” (Promise): Citizenship in a new _____ and a new _____ (Rev. 20-22).

D. “Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness” (5:6)

1. O.T. Antecedent: Psalm 107:5-9; also Psalms 42:1-2; 63:1)
2. Meaning: those who long for _____ with desperate urgency.
3. Contrast (Opposite): Those who feed “soul hunger” with the world’s “_____.”
4. Blessing: **“they shall be filled”**
5. Example: Samaritan _____ (John 4)
6. “Already” (Provision): Justification, Sanctification, Recovery
7. “Not Yet” (Promise): Glorification, Renewal of all things

IV. Concluding Observations

- A. The people described by Jesus are “truly well off” because the _____ to entering the kingdom of heaven (erected by a commitment to self-rule) have been removed.
- B. Disciples who want to grow in kingdom virtues should continually pray: “