

Beatitudes
What The Bible Teaches About Being Blessed

JESUS' BEATITUDES AND THE PLAN OF SALVATION

Text: Matthew 5:1-12

Introduction:

1. The biblically blessed are those who depend upon God.
2. They inherit the promise made to Abraham by submission to God.
3. Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount by describing foundational attitudes that are necessary to follow Him.
4. These attitudes are also essential to salvation.
5. Consider the relationship between the beatitudes of Jesus and the plan of salvation...

I. The Blessedness of Salvation

- A. True blessedness is not about material or physical blessings.
- B. Rather, it comes from one's salvation from sin and fellowship with God.
- C. God's promise to Abraham was the hope of true forgiveness through the Messiah – salvation for all through the sacrifice of Jesus (Genesis 12:1-3; John 3:16; Galatians 3:16).
- D. When this spiritual blessing is received, all other spiritual blessings flow from it (Ephesians 1:3).
 1. Peace
 2. Hope
 3. Joy
- E. This is true blessedness.
- F. This state of blessedness is built upon certain attitudes that enable one to understand and acquire it.
- G. Thus, the beatitudes of Jesus in the sermon on the mount have a direct relationship to the Gospel plan of salvation.

II. The Attitudes that Produce Salvation

- A. The Christian life begins in the heart (Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:22-24).
- B. Humility
 1. To be "poor in spirit" is to be humble, recognizing one's need for and complete dependence upon God.
 2. Thus, one who is humble will be open to **hearing** the Word of God (cf. Matthew 10:14; 11:15; 12:42; 13:13-18; 17:5).
 3. Humble hearing of the Gospel will produce **faith** (Romans 10:17).
- C. Godly Sorrow
 1. Humility must be joined with a heart that is tender and sincere, willing to mourn over sin.
 2. Learning the truth of the Gospel causes godly sorrow – the realization that Jesus suffered and died for my sins (cf. Acts 9:9).
 3. Godly sorrow produces **repentance** (2 Corinthians 7:10; Luke 13:3).

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- D. Meekness
 - 1. One who turns from sin in repentance demonstrates a strength of character and conviction.
 - 2. This strength is joined with submission to the Savior, producing the gentleness of meekness.
 - 3. The meek individual is not ashamed of what he has learned to be true.
 - 4. Thus, he boldly **confesses** his **faith in Jesus** (Romans 1:16; 10:9-10).
- E. Hunger for Righteousness
 - 1. One who is willing to make the good confession will not be hindered from obeying whatever the Lord commands.
 - 2. In fact, he will hunger and thirst for righteousness.
 - 3. So, when the Lord commands **baptism** for the remission of sins, he gladly obeys (Matthew 3:13-15; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).
- F. One who possesses these attitudes will find salvation in Christ and the blessedness of being a child of God.

III. The Attitudes that Maintain Salvation

- A. Mercy
 - 1. One who has received such mercy from God cannot help but to show mercy to others (cf. Matthew 18:21-35).
 - 2. The merciful will actively seek what is best for others, whether they deserve it or not.
 - 3. He will serve God with compassion for his neighbor (cf. Luke 10:25-37).
- B. Purity
 - 1. Furthermore, he will strive to be right inwardly as he works to do right outwardly.
 - 2. To keep his heart pure, he will “walk in the light” (1 John 1:7-9) – maintaining his integrity, guarding his heart, and confessing his sins.
- C. Reconciliation
 - 1. He will also be motivated to help others come to know the peace that passes understanding, found only in Jesus.
 - 2. Thus, he will evangelize with love for the Lord and for the lost (2 Corinthians 5:10-11, 14-15).
- D. Endurance
 - 1. Likewise, he will follow the Lord in all these good works with perseverance and endurance.
 - 2. Even if persecuted, he will serve faithfully (Revelation 2:10).
- E. These attitudes enable one to maintain salvation from sin and fellowship with the Lord.

Conclusion: *Do you have the necessary attitudes for salvation?*