

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

The Beatitudes

Persecution: Motivating or Mutilating?

Matthew 5:10

We've been traveling the Beatitudes road surveyed by Jesus Himself. We see our inability to pay our sin-debt (**poor in spirit**). This understood, we **mourn** due to our sinfulness. The result of our mourning is the gift of spiritual comfort. Where once hardened and cold, we now practice ultimate surrender, denying ourselves to follow Christ, we become **meek, gentle and teachable**. These emphasize the vital importance of a deep awareness of need.

Then comes the great statement of God provision for those **hungering and thirsting for the righteousness**. Fully satisfied, we look at the results of being filled. Happiness is found in action of **mercy**, as we give what we didn't earn, and in showing mercy, prove that we've been shown mercy by Jesus. Those that realize our own impure heart, **see God**. Jesus is establishing an entirely new and different kingdom of **peacemakers**.

Only a new man can **LIVE** this new life, a marathon not a sprint.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

All the beatitudes get blessings, but our Lord starts and ends with the most important promise of membership in the kingdom of Heaven.

Persecution

Magnification of most searching test: Persecution.

- Jesus taught not to **FEAR** it.

Matthew 5:10 is not saying, "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of...."

-**HARD** headedness. Objectionable or difficult because they lack wisdom in regard to being a testimony for Christ.
-a **CAUSE**. There's a difference between being persecuted for righteousness' sake and a cause.
-**MARTYR** syndrome. Some people almost seem anxious for martyrdom. They almost court it.
-**religious POLITICAL** reasons. If we begin to mix our religion and politics, then we must not be surprised if we receive persecution.
-**being GOOD, noble, or self-sacrificing**. The subtle distinction is that the world only persecutes the righteous.

What does this Beatitude Mean?

Righteousness: Being like the Lord Jesus Christ

- *John 15:18-20*
- The severest of earthly **PAIN** is no match for the promise of heaven!
- *2 Timothy 3:12*
- **ABEL** persecuted by Cain. Why?
- **MOSES** persecuted by Israelites. Why?
- **DAVID** persecuted by Saul. Why?
- Elijah, Jeremiah, Daniel and his three friends. Why?

- Jesus Christ Himself. Why?

This road leads me to a startling truth – this EARTH is not my real home.

Perpetrators of Persecution

Persecution is not confined to the WORLD.

- Ezekiel (*Ezekiel 2:6-7*)
- David (*2 Samuel 16:5-13; 19:18b-23*)

World's response: REJECTION not recognition.

- *1 Peter 3:14*
- Disciples will be persecuted for righteousness' sake. Rejection is the REWARD from the world for their message and works.

God's Reward

God's reward: Kingdom of Heaven

- Lack of persecution breeds APATHY.

Conclusions:

- The way we RESPOND tells us a great deal about our idea concerning the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- This beatitude TESTS our ideas as to what the Christian is (*Luke 6:26*).
- The natural / unregenerate man is ENMITY against God.
- The NEW BIRTH is an absolute necessity.

***This road leads me to a startling truth – this earth
is not my real HOME.***

Doing Deliberate Discipleship Contentment amid persecution

1. Contentment means being the most contented, as well as the most UNSATISFIED person in the world.

- *Philippians 4:7-9; Psalm 73:25*

2. Christian contentment is NOT from addition, but from subtraction.

- *Matthew 16:26.*

3. Contentment comes not from getting rid of the burden, but from ADDING another.

- *Romans 6:6.*

4. In contentment, the affliction is not removed, but CHANGED into something else.

- *Galatians 5:17*

5. Contentment isn't from circumstances, but PERFORMANCE in circumstances.

- *Acts 13:36*

6. Contentment is not from bringing in anything from outside that INCREASES comfort, but in purging out inner desires.

- *James 4:1*

7. Contentment gets STRENGTH from someone else – Jesus Christ.

- *Colossians 1:11*

8. Contentment comes from the COVENANT God has made.

- *Isaiah 43:2; Joshua 1:5; Isaiah 54:17*

9. Contentment comes from REALIZING the glories of Heaven await.

- *2 Corinthians 4:16*

10. Contentment comes as we PRAY.

- *1 Samuel 1:18; Philippians 4:6,7*

For completed notes of today's sermon, visit the FFC website – www.faithfellowship.us. Thanks.