

Brookland Baptist Church  
Bible Study  
Pastor Charles B. Jackson, Sr., Facilitator

Lecture I

February 10, 2021

THE GREATEST SERMON EVER PREACHED  
Matthew Chapter 5

Aristotle – Ancient Greek Philosopher once said, “Excellence or virtue is a settled disposition of the mind that determines our choice of actions and emotions.” We, therefore, can choose those “happenings” in our lives which contribute to or subtract from our happiness.

Whereas “JOY” depends on JESUS; HAPPINESS depends on happenings. What you choose to happen in your life can alter your actions and emotions. In this sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives a blueprint one would follow to live a happy, peaceful and prosperous life. It is the best known of all the teaching of Jesus, and perhaps, the least understood and certainly the least obeyed.

It is His own description of what He wanted His followers to be and do. Though Jesus delivered this sermon more than 2000 years ago, His message is timeless. It is today the same as it was then, and will be the same tomorrow as it is now. Jesus, our Christ, never changes. If He spoke it then, it continues to live today.

- **Leviticus 18:1-4 (NIV)**

*18 The Lord said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘I am the Lord your God. <sup>3</sup> You must not do as they do in Egypt, where you used to live, and you must not do as they do in the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you. Do not follow their practices. <sup>4</sup> You must obey my laws and be careful to follow my decrees. I am the Lord your God.*

- **Psalm 106:35 (KJV)**

*<sup>35</sup> But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works.*

- **Jeremiah 10:1-2 (KJV)**

*<sup>1</sup> Hear ye the word which the Lord speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:*

*<sup>2</sup> Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.*

- **Ezekiel 20:7 (KJV)**

*<sup>7</sup> Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.*

The Sermon on the Mount is at the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus. Immediately after Jesus' baptism and temptation, He began to announce that the Kingdom of God, (long promised in the Old Testament era), was now on the threshold. Jesus, Himself, had to come to inaugurate it.

- **Matthew 4:17, 23 (KJV)**

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

<sup>23</sup> And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

The Sermon on the Mount portrays the repentance (complete change of mind) and the righteousness (relationship with Jesus Christ) which belong to the Kingdom of God. It describes what human life and human community look like when they come under the gracious rule of God.

- **Matthew 5:1(a)** – Jesus saw the multitude . . .

He saw our condition;

He saw our struggles;

He saw our flesh and blood;

He saw our inability to redeem ourselves and reconcile with God.

He saw us!

- **Matthew 5:1(b)** - He went up into a mountain. . .

An elevated place denoting His royal authority as the Prince of Preachers.

The name of the mountain is not given to suggest that the location from which the gospel is preached does not matter.

As long as the heart is pure and the motive is right, the Word of God can be proclaimed by the "called" of God and received by the people of God.

- **Matthew 5:2(b)** – and taught them. . .

Jesus knew the people needed the Word.

- **Matthew 4:4 (KJV)**

<sup>4</sup> *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

- **Matthew 4:7 (KJV)**

<sup>7</sup> *Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*

- **Matthew 4:10 (KJV)**

<sup>10</sup> *Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

### **“It Is Written”**

The 1st word Jesus said upon beginning His sermon was “Blessed” which means “HAPPY.” Here is where Jesus begins to give us the Beatitudes.

### **4 Ways to Understand the Beatitudes:**

1. They are a code of ethics for the disciples and a standard of conduct for all believers.
  2. They contrast Kingdom values (what is eternal) with worldly values (what is temporary).
  3. They contrast the superficial “faith” of the Pharisees with the real faith that Christ demands.
  4. They show the Old Testament expectations will be fulfilled in the New Kingdom.
- The Beatitudes are **ATTITUDES** that should **BE** in our lives.
  - The Beatitudes are the **characteristics** of **God’s children**.
  - The Beatitudes are a **blueprint** for “**HAPPINESS**.”
  - The Beatitudes are a **foundation** for **building a home in heaven**.

- **Matthew 5:3 – “The Poor in Spirit”**

When we speak of poor in the natural or physical sense, it refers to one’s material lack. However, Jesus speaks of poor or poverty from a spiritual standpoint. It is identified with humble dependence on God.

- **Psalm 34:6 (KJV)**

<sup>6</sup> *This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.*

- **Isaiah 57:15 (KJV)**

<sup>15</sup> *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*

- **Isaiah 66:1-2 (KJV)**

<sup>66</sup> *Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? <sup>2</sup> For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.*

The fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy is found in the mission of Jesus in Luke 4:18; Isaiah 61:1.

- **Luke 4:18 (KJV)**

<sup>18</sup> *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,*

- **Isaiah 61:1 (KJV)**

<sup>61</sup> *The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;*

Thus to be poor in spirit is to acknowledge our spiritual poverty; our spiritual bankruptcy before God.

## **We NEED God!**

- **Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)**

<sup>5</sup> *Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. <sup>6</sup> In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

Being poor in spirit simply says we are to acknowledge our spiritual poverty and humble ourselves before the Lord that He might exalt us. The way to rise in the Kingdom is to sink in ourselves.

- **1st Peter 5:6**

<sup>6</sup> *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

**God's Promise: "Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."**