

Title: "The Wonderful Position of being Blessed"

Text": Matthew ^{5:1-12} ~~4:24-5:12~~

Take your Bibles and turn to Matthew chapter 5. I would like to begin a series of message from the Beatitudes. *Start Chapter 5: beginning work vs 1* ~~And I would like to begin this series in Matthew chapter 4 verse 24.~~ There are notes in your bulletin. I would encourage you to use them.

(Read Matthew 4:24-5:12)

Prayer

Our Father in heaven, we come to you with a sense of our need. And awareness that we have not been what we should. A hunger and thirst that we might know more of God's power and more of His love for our life. We recognize, Lord, that you are the vine and we are the branches. And the branch cannot produce fruit of itself except it abide in the vine. And you have told us that without you we can do nothing. It seems, Father, that we constantly war against that and we struggle in the old sin nature trying to do what we think we ought to do. And so little is done. And so little evidences seems to be seen of your work. And so, Lord, I pray, that you would search the heart of every believer. Bring us to that place of dependence upon you.

And Father God, I would also pray for those in our midst who are without a personal relationship with you though Christ. Father, please grant to them a listening ear and a receptive heart and bring salvation to them.

We pray for each believer that this will be a series of messages which will cause spiritual growth. And we pray this in the name of Jesus...Amen.

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(1) Now, as we begin this series I would like to remind you of a few facts about these beatitudes.

(1) Number one, the Beatitudes deal with many of the deep-rooted problems of practical Christian living. These teachings of Jesus, as we will learn are not for some future date. They are for right now..They are meant for us

In other words, all of these beatitudes should be operating in our life when we are living for Christ

(2) Number two, These beatitudes are the teachings of Jesus, himself. ^{He} ~~He~~ taught his disciples. Vs 1 says, "when He saw the multitudes, He went up on the mountain, and after He sat down, His disciples came to him."

So, this was teaching for His disciples---We are his disciples..So, this teaching is for all believers.

You know, I have often wished that I could have been part of that group of disciples that received this teaching directly from the lips of Jesus. This was the heart of what Jesus wanted to teach Christians. ^{as to How to live a true life} Thus, dear friends, I believe we should give much attention to what Jesus is saying here in these verse.

(3) Number three..In order to understand the beatitudes, let me give you a little outline which I will be using. The outline is divided into three parts: First..there is the matter of our POSITION.....SECONDLY..there is the matter of PRACTICE. And third...there is the matter of a PROMISE.

In other words, in each one of these eight beatitudes, you will find the general POSITION OF THE BELIEVER stated: BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT
BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN..ETC

The Word "Blessed" indicates
~~That~~ is your position. Then following the POSITION, you find a PRACTICE..that is, something we must do...POOR IN SPIRIT...MOURNING..ETC. And when the PRACTICE is operating in our life, we will receive a tremendous PROMISE.

Now, if you keep this little outline in mind, you will come to an exciting understanding of how these beatitudes can find real application in your life...

() Now, before, we look at each one of these beatitudes, I believe we need to understand the meaning of the word "Blessed." ^{OR OUR POSITION} It is at this point that many christians miss the whole teaching of the beatitudes. They fail to understand the meaning of the Word "blessed." You see the word "blessed" it talking about OUR POSITION IN CHRIST. *We are "Blessed"*

And our POSITION unlocks the meaning of all 8 beatitudes. You see, Jesus is not admonishing us to go out and to try to be poor in Spirit and thus, hope that we ~~will~~^{will} be blessed...NO WAY! Blessendness is a statement of fact. THAT.." Blessed are those who are poor in Spirit." WHY? "Because theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

O.K...WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE "BLESSED."

In helping you to understand what it means to be "BLESSED", let me first of all, explain the difference between the word "happy" and the word "blessed." WHY? Because many christians believe that the word Blessedness means "happineness. And it doesn't. The word "happiness" comes from an English word meaning "chance." And it is all related to your circumstance. If your circmumstances are good and everything is going right according to your plans, then you are happy. But, if something goes wrong..then you are unhappy. ^{EX - Fishers Trip - VAC - Rain} Many Christians live their whole life by circumstances. And thus they miss out on all the blessings that God has for them.

Now, this word "blessed" that we find in the beatitudes is used in two other places in the N.T. And I would like you to notice the usage of this word as we determine a meaning for "BLESSED."

(1) First of all, (turn to the) Gospel of Luke. Luke chapter 1 verse 48. Here, the word "blessed" is used of the virgin Mary. Mary is speaking and she says in Vs 48, "For He has had regard for the humble state of His bond slave; for behold from this time on all generations shall count me blessed."

The reason Mary was 'blessed' is not because she was happy. But, Because God had done something to her. WHAT HAD GOD DONE TO HER? God had produced under his own power without natural means the pregency of Mary. Mary became pregant by the Holy Spirit of God. Therefore, her POSITION is blessed.

(2) The second usage is found in James 5. (Would you turn, please) to James chapter 5 verse 11. James chapter 5 verse 11.

James 5:11 says, "Behold, we count those blessed who endure."

out
This word "blessed" is the Greek word "Makarus". "We count those blessed who endure." You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful."

The "those" ~~of~~ James 5:11 are the prophets who are an example of suffering and patience. (That we learn from Vs 10.)

Luke 1: ut
So, we count them, we declare them to be "blessed." These are "blessed" who are enduring. It is a ~~condition~~ *because of that* condition of their life; and they are enduring persecution and we declare them... "to be blessed."

~~Now, the rest of the usages of "MAKARUS" are found in the Beatitudes.~~

So, in contrasting "blessed" with "happiness", I hope you will understand, somewhat, of what the Lord is teaching us in the ~~sermon~~ *Beatitudes* on ~~the Mount.~~

Because "happiness" and "blessedness" are not the same *word*. And unfortunately most of American Christianity is being built on the concept of "happiness". And this is the great drive, the great goal of American Christianity. It is as though it is the end of all things. If we can just be happy, now, that is all that matters.

And, it seems, we will go to any end possible to reach this goal, to be happy. A person may work all of his life and be called successful and have everything his heart has every desired and ~~wind up~~ *at the end of life* and realize that he is not happy.

out
How well you know of all the worlds great millionaires, ~~most~~ *some* of them have ended their lives by suicide. And it is a great example of trying to be happy through material things.

The world lacks happiness. And you may lack happiness in your Christian life. Now, you may not want to admit it.....because it would be embarrassing to your friends to simply say, "as a Christian, I am not happy."

But, it may be the beginning of a blessed condition in you. To begin by saying, "I AM NOT HAPPY." "I AM SEEKING MORE FROM GOD THAN I PRESENTLY KNOW AND ENJOY."

So
~~Now, let's draw a contrast between "happiness" and "blessedness."~~
~~happiness depends upon your heart and character. You have to be happy first.~~

(1) First, BLESSEDNESS, depends totally upon God. It has nothing to do with man. Totally on God.

on the other hand
Happiness depends on circumstances. Everything must fit into my schedule according to my plan in order for me to be happy.

And friends, it is true. We are so happiness prone that we don't understand BLESSEDNESS. Happiness is dependent upon circumstances. If everything goes right, we can say at the end of the day: "BOY, I HAVE HAD A GREAT DAY."

Or...Someone ask: "HAY! HOW IS YOUR DAY GOING?"

Do you know what they mean? They mean that a lot of good things have happened and ~~this~~ we are happy. That is what that question means.

But BLESSEDNESS is not dependent upon circumstances. You could have a lousey day and you would still be in a state of "BLESSEDNESS." *That is your position*

(2) Secondly, BLESSEDNESS is a positional truth, while HAPPINESS IS A conditional truth. Jesus makes this simple declaration: "BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT".....Period....YOU ARE BLESSED...THAT IS YOUR POSITION....

(3) Third, BLESSED IS spiritual not physical.

And yet, most of us in our christian life are relating "BLESSEDNESS" to the physical and not to the spiritual.

Let me give you an example: If I am able to talk to someone about Jesus Christ and they respond, then I am happy.

You say, "Well, shouldn't you be happy talking to someone about Jesus? Yes...But, the point is that a lot of us relate the success or failure of that to whether or not we are going to be happy. And it is simply physical because it is sharing verbally with someone else hoping for a response.

God, never said for us to look at the response. But, to simply share the Gospel. Blessedness is not conditional. Blessedness is positional and spiritual.

Or, how about this example: A person says, "You know, I am really happy in the Lord. I have never missed a single service *of Worship*"

Now, I think you ought to be faithful in assembling with Christians and hearing the Word of God. But, a person who holds that viewpoint and assumes that happiness is a result does not understand "BLESSEDNESS." It becomes again physical instead of spiritual. Blessedness depends on God. It does not depend upon circumstances or what I do or what I fail to do.

(4) Number four, when you are blessed there is complete satisfaction and fulfilment. You know, the Lord really spoke to me about this. How, restless we are. We are restless because we have been dominated by materialism for so long. Unsatisfied...seeking something else....Never quite coming to that place of rest and knowing that I am complete in Christ. That I have all *I need* And I need nothing more. There is that restlessness of spirit in all of life. *Church Happiness* And it is a violation of what it is to be blessed. To be blessed is to be completely fulfilled. To be absolutely satisfied. That I am everything in Christ. Everything that God wants me to be.

(5) Fiveth, Blessedness is more concerned with relationship to God. Those who seek only happiness are more concerned about their relationship with man. And how true that is.

For example: If some other christian, that you know, is upset with you and you are staying awake nights worrying about it, instead of looking to the Lord to work in the life of that person. A lot of us are uptight because of what people say or think about us. And we are looking at it from the horizontal; failing to see the verital.

But, dear friends, our relationship to God should be the most important thing in our life. It is more important for me to be vitally related to God in my life and to be practicing his presence then to be involved with anyone else. And yet, in christian circles we have changed that around. And christian service and activity and business has been substituted *For* ~~or~~ a walk with God. You know, back in the middle ages christians were accused of with drawing into isolationism. The great mystics who believed that there relationship with God was important, forgot about their relationship to man.

But, God opened the doors and throughout the 18th and into the 19th centuries, Christians began to spread across the world with the message of the Gospel. But what has happened is that in our 20th century we again moved away, far away, from that personal relationship with God. And we have been consintrating upon performance. And thus the Christian world speaks about involvements and concerns and obligations to one another....SOCIETY... And all the social pressures to do for somebody else. Just to meet their social needs. And we have forgotten that the greatest need in the world is to be concerned with one's relationship to God. *That is why people are so lost - They don't believe people are lost - They don't believe people need to be loved*

Where do you stand? To be blessed is to know that God is more important And the persuit of God is absolutely more important than any persuit of any other goal in life.

With all your education....persue God

With all of your business sucess...persure God

With all that the family means to you...persue God

With all of your dreams about retirement....persue God

Yet, many of us, I believe, have set Him aside without knowing it. And we have tried to do what we think He wants us to do.

When He, like a loving Father saying to His child, willn't you just love me. Willn't you just say today that you love me? Willn't you just learn something about me? Willn't you just put me first in your life?

you To be blessed is to know what it means to be related to God and to persue Him as the final goal in life.

In Romans 11:36 Paul says, "Out of Him," that is the Father, are all things. And through Him are all things. And unto Him shall be all things."

So, by way of ultimate intention, if your goal is happiness in your life, you are on the wrong track. The ultimate intention should be towards God...THE PERSUIT OF GOD, HIMSELF. *Then you will be truly happy, regardless of your circumstance, because you will be loving by your persider.*

Everything comes out of him. Everything is working through him.
And everything shall be unto Him.

We get the cart way out in front of the horse and then we wonder
way we are not happy....Blessedness is a Position....When our Position
controls our Condition...We will ^{then} experience life and life more abundantly.

~~because our Position~~

~~shall we pray~~

~~is controll our Condition.~~

Now, if you understand this, you are ready
to receive a tremendous blessing from God. And each one
of these 8 beautifuls will find their place in
your life.

I am excited - because your life and mine
will be changed by the H.S. as we study these
& wonderful beautifuls. And we will look at the
first beautiful next week

Let's Close in Prayer
