

## **Lesson 2**

### **Matthew 5:3-12**

#### ***A Christian's Character: The Beatitudes***

#### ***Textbook pages 30-56***

#### 1. Blessedness

- Real happiness
- Nothing (no outside force) can deprive us of loving Jesus
- Lack of pride in our own ability
- Blessedness is something that we should always need to improve

#### 2. <sup>3</sup>*Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

- a. Old testament – poor
- b. Psalm 34:6
- c. Psalm 40:17 – poor and needy
- d. Psalm 69:32-33 – seek God
- e. Poor –
- f. person who sees his spiritual bondage
- g. Conscious of his sins
- h. Knows that by himself he is helpless before God - Matthew 6:12

#### 3. *Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.*

- a. Recognize our spiritual condition – Psalm 51:4
- b. Mourn for our sin – 2 Corinthians 7:10
- c. Our mourning leads us away from sin and towards righteousness – James 4:8-10
- d. Knowledge that we have offended God fills us with shame and grief
- e. How dog hunk down when we call for them in a tone of anger – i.e., after they has dug up the new flower bed
- f. God then grants comfort – Psalm 50:15 and Isaiah 55:6-7
- g. Sometimes the affliction is removed – 2 Chronicles 20:15,24 and Isaiah 38:3-7

#### 4. *Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.*

- a. Meek - Not lack of backbone – not not chicken
- b. Learn to submit to difficulties knowing that in everything God is working for my good

- i. Examples –
      - 1. Moses – Numbers 12:3
      - 2. Not his natural disposition
      - 3. 40 years of isolation and loneliness
    - ii. Jesus Christ – Matthew 11:29
  - c. Meek – not resentful; bears no grudge
  - d. Inherit the earth
    - i. Now – by not paying attention to enriching themselves, but rather seek God’s kingdom and His righteousness
    - ii. Meekness makes us a blessing to our fellow man; some of whom will bless us in return
    - iii. Believe that resting upon a small portion of God’s blessing is better than great riches without God’s blessing
      - 1. Contrast
      - 2. Isaiah 26:3 – perfect peace mind stayed upon the Lord
      - 3. Isaiah 48:22 – No peace for the wicked
  - e. Do you know who is meek? – Probably not who is cool? – Examples
5. *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.*
- a. *Righteousness* – perfect conformity with God’s law and His will
    - i. Man’s righteousness is a gift – by imputation – Genesis 15:16
    - ii. All of our righteousness is as a polluted garment – Isaiah 64:6
    - iii. Man’s righteousness is based upon God’s mercy
      - 1. Romans 4:3,9 and Galatians 3:6
      - 2. Moses knew it – Genesis 15:6
      - 3. David Psalm 32:1
      - 4. Jesus taught it – parable Pharisee and publican – Luke 18:9-14
  - b. Imparted – ethical conduct

- i. New status
    - ii. New conduct
    - iii. We cannot try to claim the first without the second; then we are trying to cheat God
  - c. Righteousness – imputed and imparted must be the object of our intense desire – Psalm 42:1
- 6. Blessed *are* the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.
  - a. Mercy is love for those in misery and a forgiving spirit toward sinners
    - i. Good Samaritan – Luke 10
    - ii. Jesus the merciful high priest
  - b. Mercy grows out of our personal experience with God
- 7. Blessed *are* the pure in heart, For they shall see God.
  - a. Sincere, honest, people of integrity
    - i. Psalm 24:3,4
    - ii. Psalm 73:1
    - iii. I Timothy 1:5
    - iv. 2 Timothy 2:22
    - v. 1 Peter 1:22
  - b. People who think and speak and act without hypocrisy; but also strive to please and glorify God
  - c. Worship God in spirit and truth
    - i. Philippians 2:1-4 and 4:8,9
    - ii. Colossians 3:1-17
- 8. Blessed *are* the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.
  - a. Strive by our message and conduct to impart reconciliation
  - b. Aspire after peace with all men – Romans 12:18 and Hebrews 12:14
- 9. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
  - a. We are told that we will be persecuted – John 15:18-20
  - b. Fiery trials – 1 Peter 4:12
  - c. Rejoice in our suffering - Acts 5:41
- 10. <sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. <sup>12</sup>“Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for

great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.