

## Lecture 7 – The Sermon on the Mount: Exposition of Matthew 5 - 6

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” Matthew 5:6 (NIV)

### Key Terms

“Poor in spirit,” righteousness, beatitudes

### Objectives

- \*To learn the structure of the Sermon on the Mount (SOM)
- \*To learn the relationship between Jesus and the law

### Lead Question

Are Christians “actively” righteous, “passively” righteous, or both?

## The Sermon on the Mount: Exposition of Matthew 5 - 6

### I. The Beatitudes

#### A. Character of beatitudes

1. Meaning of μακαριος (*makarios*, “blessed, happy”).
2. A surprising list. Why are classic virtues missing? Why is weakness, neediness blessed?
3. These are kingdom virtues. We expect them to differ.

#### B. The structure of the beatitudes: two views

A hunger and thirst for righteousness as the center of seven beatitudes (Doriani)

Beatitudes of need

Beatitudes of action

#### **The Center: Righteousness**

1. Poor in Spirit
2. Mourn
3. Meek

#### 4. Hunger & thirst

5. Merciful
6. Pure in heart
7. Peacemaker

8. World’s response (to all that precedes): persecution

Qualities Approved In Relation to God	Qualities Approved In Relation to Mankind
Poor in spirit blessed; theirs is K	Merciful blessed
Mourners blessed; they will be comforted	Pure blessed
Merciful blessed; they will be mercied	Peacemakers blessed
Hungry blessed; they will be satisfied	The persecuted blessed

#### C. Beatitudes 1-4 explained. First three beatitudes express knowledge of need before God

1. Poor in spirit; theirs is the K = absence of self-reliance
2. “Blessed are those who mourn,” for the right things. Isaiah 6, 2 Cor. 7:10, James 4:8b-10
3. Meekness concerns character, not personality. It is the opposite of ambition and envy.
4. Hunger and thirst for righteousness flows from the first three.
5. We think of legal righteousness that wipes away our sin and debt to God by faith. Matthew thought of sanctification, the establishment of God’s order. Application...
6. Each beatitude of need leads to a corresponding beatitude of action toward others.

#### D. Three beatitudes of active righteousness

1. The poor in spirit are merciful. When we know our weakness we see others differently.
  2. One who mourns over sin will be pure in heart. When we hate our sin, we will root it out.
  3. The meek become peacemakers. They stop grasping, which is the first cause of strife.
- Thus, beatitudes do not describe seven discrete traits, but one, righteousness, with 7 facets.

#### E. Results

### II. Jesus and the Law, 5:21-48

#### A. Is Jesus a lawbreaker?

He heads off the charge by proclaiming loyalty to law (5:17-20). Then He states 6 antitheses "You have heard that it was said...but I say to you."

1. Each section quotes or misquotes a passage of the Old Testament (OT) law
2. Righteousness must be redefined in light of coming of the K. Jews thought that the righteous enter K. But then none will enter. Sinners are actually no farther from the K than the righteous.
3. Jesus expects members of K to be righteous - but His focus is on heart, full sense of law.

#### B. K righteousness surpasses the scribes: doing right things for the right reasons

1. True meaning of the law: Go beyond external actions, to motivations, attitudes.
2. The goal: not exhaustive specification but illustration of disciples' thoughts, words, deeds.
3. First goal: Do the right things for the right reasons. Example, construction worker's fidelity.

### Murder Exercise in Exegesis of Matthew 5:21-26

Level 1 Lexical and syntactical units. List and define words with uncertain meaning.

Level 2 Meaning of paragraphs. How do words and phrases go together? Examples:

\*v. 23-24 οὖν (*oun*, "therefore") How is this a conclusion? Notice that Jesus does not say, "If you have something against your brother, go..." Rather, "If your brother has something against you..."

\*v. 25 How does this build on v. 21, 22? Notice contrast, ἀδελφός, ἀδελφός (*adelphos*, "brother"), ἀντιδικός (*antidikos*, "unrighteous")

Level 3 Authorial purpose, or why is He saying this? (Not a major issue here)

Level 4 Significance for the reader, or application today

1. What do we say when someone frustrates our plans?
2. Behind murder lies judgment. "You idiot! You're worthless. You're good for nothing." This attitude leads to murderous actions: abortion, euthanasia, neglect of the hungry and homeless.

Method: Know people and know the times and you should have no shortage of applications.

*\*Which of the two views of the beatitudes best fits your view? Why?*

*\*Look at Matthew 5:43. Where does the OT say, "Hate your enemy"? This is an example of Pharisee tradition/misapplication of the law.*

*\*Poverty, mourning, and meekness are rarely listed as virtues today. Why do you think this is? How would you explain to a non-believer that these "weaknesses" should be considered virtues?*