

Beautiful Attitudes

- **Opening**

- Beginning a new series on the Sermon on the Mount
 - Matthew shows how Jesus fulfills OT history (ch. 1:1-17), OT prophecy (1:18- 4:16)
 - SOM= fulfills OT Law, Not to demolish but to complete (5:17)
 - Moses and similarities with Jesus here
 - Reveals depth and meaning of law
 - The American rock singer turned pastor, John Wimber, said, 'Jesus is insatiable. Everything we do pleases him but nothing satisfies him. I have been satisfied with Jesus. He has not been satisfied with me. He keeps raising the standards. He walks in high places.'
 - In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus 'raised the bar' to the sky, not to bring us down but to lift us up: 'I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand – shine!' (5:16, MSG).
- Beatitudes

Matthew 5:1-12 (NRSV)

- **Intro**

- The world will tell you that true happiness comes from "Girls, Gold, Glory" ("Sex, Salary, Status")

Tension: What does being 'blessed' mean in Jesus' eyes? What is the source of God's favor and True happiness?

- Greek word 'makarios'= "blessed, fortunate, happy"
 - privileged recipient of God's favor
 - Supreme Blessedness, Flourishing, Prospering
 - Amplified Bible= 'happy, to be envied, and spiritually prosperous, that is, with life-joy and satisfactionregardless of their outward conditions.'
 - Jesus gives us 8 unexpected situations in the beatitudes or 'beautiful attitudes' in which we receive God's favor and blessing
 - Invitation into this life by Jesus
 - The first 4 have to do with our relationship with God, 2nd 4 relationship with others.

V.3= Poor in Spirit

- Be spiritually desperate for God
- Word for 'poor' means "begging, dependent on others for support"
- Here= brought low or weakened to the point of realizing the need to depend on Jesus
- MSG= 'you're blessed when you're at the end of your rope'
- Blessed through what Jesus made possible= yours is the KOH

V.4= Mourn

- Weep over your condition
- Mourn own sin and the mess in the world
 - Mourning here is for repentance, Sorrow=cloud and Tears=rain
 - Now I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because your grief led to repentance; for you felt a godly grief, so that you were not harmed in any way by us. For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death. For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves guiltless in the matter. 2 Corinthians 7:9-11
- Weep with those who weep, mourn with those who mourn
 - Many can mourn over death but can't over a crucified Savior
 - Worldly sorrow= Funerals
 - "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." Romans 12:15 NRSV
- Not wrong to weep and mourn the loss of those you love

- “a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;” Ecclesiastes 3:4 NRSV
- Jesus promises those that mourn ‘will be comforted’
 - God’s comfort goes way beyond any kind of ordinary comfort
 - “he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” Revelation 21:4 NRSV
 - Indescribable, supernatural
- Joyce Meyer= “It’s almost worth having a problem in order to be able to experience God’s comfort”

V. 5= Meek

- Be content with who you are
- Greek word= ‘gentle, considerate, unassuming’
- Showing kindness and love for others
- Opposite of arrogance and self-seeking
- ‘Broken’, not in a shattered broken glass sense, but in a broken horse sense= tamed, strength under control
- Through Jesus meek= will inherit the earth
- MSG= ‘You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are- no more, no less’

V. 6= Hunger and thirst for righteousness

- Be hungry for God
 - Hungry, Humble, Smart
- MSG= ‘you’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God’
- Pursue a relationship with God as your number one priority in life
- Pursuing anything else for its own sake ultimately leaves you empty
- Blessing= ‘will be filled’

V.7= Merciful

- Receive forgiveness and be merciful
- Don’t give people what they ‘deserve’, give them what they don’t deserve
 - Grace & Mercy
- C.S. Lewis= ‘to be Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you’
- Blessing= ‘will be shown mercy’

V.8= Pure in heart

- Be completely sincere
- MSG= ‘you’re blessed when you get your inside world- your mind and heart- put right’
- Not just outward purity but integrity, openness, sincerity and authenticity
 - 2019 Star Word
- Pure heart starts with thoughts, thoughts become words=your actions=your character
 - Renewing mind?
- Key to being pure in heart is allowing others to see us as we are= brokenness & vulnerability
 - Authenticity
- Blessing= ‘see God’

V.9= Peacemakers

- Strive to bring peace
- Don’t stir up conflict, but make peace
 - Healthy conflict
- Jesus came to make peace for us on the cross (Colossians 1:20)
- MSG= ‘you’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight’
- Blessing= ‘for they will be called children of God’

V.10= Persecuted

- Theology of Suffering= don't talk about it a lot, but it is throughout the NT in every single book= Jesus promised it= in training his disciples made it clear= 'Take up your cross' 'count the cost' 'you will be persecuted for my name'
- Expect persecution from the world, nothing but criticism
 - True godliness bring persecution, Paul and Barnabas in Lystra Iconium and Antioch "There they strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith, saying, "It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God."” Acts 14:22 NRSV
 - Even when exhibit the other beatitudes "beautiful attitudes", meek-merciful-pure in heart, we will still suffer and be persecuted
- 2 kinds of persecution
 - Physical= "As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."” Romans 8:36 NRSV,
 - Prophets, Brother Yun The Heavenly Man
 - Words= Here in Matt. 5:11 "when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account."
 - Slander, defamation of character
- Trials, Purity
- Enemies= Open and Secret (Within the Church, Brother Yun)
- Not= When we pull the cross on ourselves "wanting to be the martyr", suffering for our own decisions and choices
- Holy/Godly suffering
 - Good conscience, Good call, glorify God, Suffer as Christians="Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name." 1 Peter 4:16
- How to suffer 'as Christians'
 - Courage, cheerfulness= "patience is bearing the cross, cheerfulness is taking up the cross" -Thomas Watson
- "Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." 2 Timothy 3:12 NRSV
- MSG= 'you're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution'
- Blessing= 'theirs is the kingdom of heaven'
 - KOH experienced here
 - Promise to be with us in suffering, Promise of compensation= he that loses his life for my sake will find it (OT Job)
 - Suffering is light compared to sin, compared to hell, compared to glory
 - Suffering in this life is inevitable might as well suffer for a good cause

Closing