

The Sermon on the Mount: A Study of Matthew 5-7

"Needy before God" -- Matthew 5:3

December 1, 2019

Five Pillars for Interpreting the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount:

1) Jesus begins with _____.

2) The Beatitudes: A _____ Description of the Christian Life

3) _____ **First**, _____ **Second**

- *Karl Barth*: "In its content, it is Gospel; in its form and fashion it is Law. It is first Gospel and then Law. It is the Gospel which contains and enclosed the Law as the ark of the covenant the tables of Sinai."
- *Joachim Jeremias*: "Only if we begin with the greatness of the gift of God can we really understand the heavy nature of the demands which Jesus makes." "...the Law leaves man to rely on his own strength and challenges him to do his utmost. The gospel, on the other hand, brings man before the gift of God and challenges him to make the inexpressible gift of God the basis of his life."

4) Paradoxical Obedience

- The Sermon on the Mount can only _____ by those who realize _____.

5) **Matthew 5:3-12** as the _____ as Jesus inaugurates the new (Messianic) Kingdom (the Kingdom of Heaven!), the new way of entering into the Kingdom (through Jesus!), the new availability of the Kingdom (to all broken people who follow Jesus!), and the Jesus-centered ways of living in the Kingdom (heart characteristics and ethical commandments) which is all about following Jesus and obeying his teachings.

- Frederick Bruner -- “The Beatitudes originally described people in *deplorable situations* and only secondarily people with *remarkable dispositions*.”
- Pastor Jason’s “Both/And” Interpretation: Especially Beatitudes #1 - #3 (Poor in spirit, mourn, meek) describe people in *deplorable situations* and describe people with *remarkable dispositions*:
- “The *teachings of Jesus* do to broken people what the *healings of Jesus* do to broken people – broken people are blessed and made whole. In the Beatitudes, Jesus announces the Kingdom of Heaven to broken people *in such a way* that the hearer can become a new person by the summons of Jesus, called to a new way of life (in the kingdom) and therefore blessed (made whole). Thus, by the grace of God, deplorable situations (both physical and spiritual) are not cul-de-sacs of despair but entry-points into recognizing the availability of the kingdom (Jesus’ kingdom is for broken people!) while also being the doorway to remarkable dispositions since the same dispositions for *receiving* the Kingdom (poor in spirit, mourning, meek) are made a continuous standard for *living* in the Kingdom.” ~ Pastor Jason (the interpretation on how the Beatitudes can be both addressed to people in deplorable situations and describe people with remarkable dispositions)

Points of Spiritual Application

- 1) You are _____.
- 2) “Blessed are the poor in spirit” communicates our _____ to receive (true, eternal, lasting) _____ apart from _____.
- 3) In God’s economy, spiritually _____ are the prerequisite for _____ by God.
 - “A perpetual awareness of our spiritual insufficiency opens us to continually receiving spiritual riches.” Kent Hughes
- 4) How? “Continuous _____ by a _____”.