

**LESSONS TO LIVE BY**  
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June 17, 2018

Matthew 5:1-6

1. When Jesus observed the crowds He went up on a mountain, sat down, and began to teach those who were His disciples the truths that were to **distinguish** them from the crowds and **equip** them to represent Him before the crowds.
2. At the conclusion of what we call the Sermon on the Mount Jesus told His disciples that if they acted on what they had just heard their life would be built on a solid foundation, and they would be able to stand up to whatever challenges and difficulties they faced in life. Matt 7:24-27  
"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. 26 "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell — and great was its fall."
3. Jesus taught with authority, and He expects to be taken seriously.
4. One of the last things Jesus told the Apostles was that they were to teach their converts to observe all that He had commanded. Matt 28:19-20  
"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 **teaching them to observe all that I commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
5. What we refer to as the Beatitudes contain some foundational truths and principles upon which we can build a life that is truly blessed of God; a life that will be used by God.

**I. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

- A. A paraphrase of this verse would be, "blessed are those who recognized their spiritual poverty, for theirs, and theirs alone, is the kingdom of heaven."
- B. In order to be genuinely converted we must understand both our poverty of spirit and our peril.
- C. Jesus pointed out that one aspect of the ministry of the Holy Spirit is the ministry of the conviction of sin and sin's consequences. John 16:8-11  
8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.
- D. We cannot fully appreciate the mercy, grace, and love of God until we understand it in relationship to our own sinfulness.

E. Those outside the kingdom of God need to understand that they have no hope and face certain judgment.

1. "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but **he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides (rests) on him.**" John 3:36

2. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. 18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; **he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.** John 3:16-19

## **II. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.**

A. Blessed are those who mourn their poverty of spirit.

B. Blessed are those who manifest contrition and subsequently repent towards God for their sin.

C. We need to understand that our sin nailed Jesus Christ to the cross and that understanding should cause us to mourn.

D. Everyone one of us should become familiar with Isaiah 53:4-10, and we should ask God to help us feel the full weight of the Prophet's words.

He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. 7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth. 8 By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due? 9 His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth. 10 But the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.

E. Those who genuinely mourn will experience God's comfort and forgiveness.

## **III. Blessed are the gentle (humble, meek), for they shall inherit the earth.**

A. Blessed are those who humble themselves before God, acknowledge their sin, repent of their sin, and embrace Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of their lives.

B. Blessed are those who, once they have been genuinely converted, humble themselves before God and live surrendered lives before Him.

C. Those who do will one day rule and reign with Christ.

#### **IV. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.**

- A. The Beatitudes build one upon the other.
- B. Blessed is the person who has come to recognized his poverty of spirit, mourned his spiritual poverty, and humbled himself before God by repenting of His sin and embracing Jesus as His Savior and Lord.
- C. Having been clothed with the righteousness of Christ (imputed righteousness) there is now an intense and earnest desire to be righteous in a practical and real sense.
- D. If we are not growing in righteousness (Christlikeness) it is because we are not hungering and thirsting for righteousness.
- E. Jesus declared that all those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will have their hunger and thirst satisfied.

#### **APPLICATION**

1. Desire is a powerful thing.
2. Many desire this world and the things of this world and forfeit their souls.
3. Others come to see the worth and preciousness of knowing Jesus Christ the Lord.
4. Their sanctified desire can only be described as a hungering and thirsting after God and the things of God.
5. They can never be fully satisfied because desires met awaken new and higher desires.
6. In the end they will have the glorious perfection they hungered and thirsted for.
7. Spiritual progress is one of the things that will characterize the life of a genuine follower of Jesus Christ.
  - a. Phil 1:3-6  
I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, 5 in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.
  - b. Heb 12:14-15  
Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.