

INTRODUCTION

Jesus had begun his earthly ministry with challenging preaching (4:17, 23), clear teaching (23), and miraculous healing (23, 24) that caught the attention of all around!

A. Jesus Teaches from a PLACE of Authority

“He went up on the MOUNTAIN” (5:1) . . . Parallels Old Testament’s Mount Sinai

B. Jesus Teaches from a POSTURE of Authority

Jesus SAT to teach . . . Teach what? The “fruits and good works of a Christian” (Martin Luther).
Description is prescription

I. BEATITUDES OF NEED

Beatitude # 1 “*Blessed are the poor in spirit” (3) . . . They bring: only their poverty, hoping for sustenance; only their brokenness, hoping for mending; only their sin, hoping to receive forgiveness; only their illness, hoping to be healed*

Beatitude # 2 “*Blessed are those who mourn” (4) [where] “MOURN” laments the sin-spoiled landscape of one’s life—the distance between what I am and what I was made to be*

Beatitude # 3 “*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth” (5) = Kingdom servants and caretakers . . . who live out of hopeful faith and trust in the Lord, who “*in all their ways acknowledge Him*” (Proverbs 3:5-6)*

Beatitude # 4 “*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied” (6) . . . A desire to be right with God (justification by faith), and, by the work of the Holy Spirit, yearning for “*new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:13), is a desire God meets to the full.**

II. BEATITUDES OF ACTION

Beatitude # 5 “*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy” (7) . . . Lauds compassion. Because subjects of Christ’s kingdom have tasted the mercy of God toward them in receiving them into His kingdom, they come to share with others that very quality of God’s love.*

Beatitude # 6 “*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (8) . . . “Pure” means unalloyed, unadulterated, undiminished. Hence, “Lord, I’m going to make YOU my chief good, my ‘*Summum Bonum*’.” (Psalm 73:26b)*

Beatitude # 7 “*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (9) . . . Commends overcoming evil with good to establish the peace of God in the midst of conflict, dagger looks, and cold distance.*

Beatitude # 8 “*Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (10) The victimized and tyrannized may appear to lose all: it is not so. They yield what they cannot keep to gain what they cannot lose.*

CONCLUSION

Participating in Kingdom life prospers the condition of life God intended, which is inevitably the “Happy Life.”