

The Blessed Man

By Henry Mahan

Bible Text: Matthew 5:1-10

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I want you to open your Bibles to a most familiar Scripture. It is called by many people the Sermon on the Mount. I am going to preach to you today from Mathew chapter five, the first 10 or 12 verses of Matthew five. The title of the message is “The Blessed Man.”

Now I want to read the first several verses. Would you follow along as I read Matthew chapter five starting with verse one?

“And seeing the multitude our Lord went up into a mountain and when he was set his disciples came to him and he opened his mouth and taught them saying, ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek for thy shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst for righteousness. They shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful. They shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart. They shall see God. And blessed are the peacemakers. They shall be called the children of God.’”

Now our Lord Jesus Christ is the preacher here and he was followed by a multitude of people and he went up to a higher place. He went up into the mountain. He went to a higher place because there was a great crowd of people and he sat down. They...they sat down then to preach and stood up to read the Word.

But the people gathered there before him and his disciples were with him, his disciples and the people. But now he preached to all of them because at the very end of the sermon in Matthew 7:28 it says, “When he finished these sayings the people were astonished at his doctrine.”

Now as I said this sermon is called by many the Sermon on the Mount and the subject of the sermon is not so much how to be saved, though it is certainly there, but the subject of this sermon is the life and character of the people who are saved. That is what this sermon is all about, the life and character and conduct of people who know the Lord. And our Lord uses the word “blessed” nine times in these verses.

And do you know what the word “blessed” means? It is a pronouncement of great happiness and special favor. Now remember that. The word “bless” is a pronouncement of very great happiness and special favor from God.

The angels said to Mary—now here is where I get that—the angels said to Mary, “Hail, thou art highly favored, thou art highly favored. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women. Blessed, the Lord is with you. You are highly favored and that makes you very happy.”

And God said in Psalm 65, “Blessed is the man whom the Lord chooses and causes to approach unto him that he may dwell in the courts of the Lord and be satisfied with his goodness.”

And he is not talking about future blessings only. Blessed is the man, blessed are the poor, blessed are the meek, blessed are the peacemakers and right now. This is not just future blessing. Blessed are they right now. They are highly favored. They are greatly happy and the Lord is with thee.

And you will notice this about these beatitudes before I get into each one. They stand together. That’s right. They do. And one springs out of the other. You are going to notice that. Each one follows especially marking a growth in grace of God. Each one reveals a deepening of spiritual understanding. Each one marks a better understanding of ourselves and of God. They grow.

Now you watch this. May the Lord give us an understanding of these vital words of our master.

The First of the beatitudes is in verse three in which he says, our Lord said, “Blessed are the poor in Spirit, theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

How are the poor in Spirit blessed? Well, first they have the gospel preached to them. The poor in spirit have the gospel preached to them. The Lord Jesus when he preached at Nazareth that first, that first sabbath day, identifying his ministry he said, “The spirit of the Lord is upon me. He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, to preach the gospel, the good news of salvation to the poor.”

And then when John the Baptist was in prison and he sent those disciples to the Lord Jesus and asked Jesus Christ, “Are you he for whom we look or do we look for another?” And Christ said, “You go tell John...” What? What was the first thing he said? “You go tell John the poor have the gospel preached unto them.”

So blessed are the poor. They have the gospel preached to them. Theirs is the kingdom of heaven. You can’t enter the kingdom of heaven if you don’t hear the gospel and believe it. And the poor are blessed.

Well, who are these poor? Well, they are not necessarily poor materially. They are poor in spirit. They are poor before God. I am poor. You are poor. David was perhaps one of the richest most powerful men of his day, King David. And yet he said in Psalm 40, “Lord, I am poor and needy. Lord, think upon me.”

He said in Psalm 36, “Hear me, oh Lord, for I am poor and needy.” He uses that over and over. “I am poor, spiritually poor.”

Arthur Pink defined it this way. “The poor in spirit have nothing to pay.” They are bankrupt spiritually, bankrupt in Adam, unprofitable. There is none profitable, no not one. They have nothing to eat, nothing but feeding on the husks of this old world. They need heavenly manna. There is nothing here to eat. They have nothing to wear. They are clothed with the filthy rags of self righteousness. That is poor. That is spiritual poverty.

And Paul calls us, listen, in Ephesians two he said, “We are aliens.” We are not even citizens. We are aliens. We are strangers from the covenant. We are without Christ. We are without help. We are without hope, without God in this world.

That, my friend, is poor. Blessed are the poor.

How is spiritual poverty a blessing? How can the man say I am poor and needy and be happy? Well, listen. Poverty of spirit brings the beggar to the right place to get bread, to the feet of Christ. That’s right. He drives him to Christ to seek mercy.

Poverty of spirit humbles the proud so that God will exalt him. Poverty of spirit strips off our righteous rags. Got to take them off if you are going to be clothed with his holy garment of righteousness. So poverty of Spirit strips us of our righteous rags that we may be clothed in his glorious robes. Poverty of spirit empties us of self that we may be filled with Christ.

So, brother, let me tell you. Blessed are the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Now watch the next one. Blessed are they that mourn. They shall be comforted. Did you remember I told you these beatitudes stand together? They follow one upon another. And this first one leads to the next one. Why are these people mourning? Why are they mourning? They are mourning because they are poor in Spirit. That is why they are mourning. Why do these people mourn? They mourn because of their state before God. They mourn over their sins of thought, of word, of deed.

The publican in the temple was mourning. He was poor in spirit and he was mourning over it. He smote on his breast. He said, “God, be merciful to me. I am a sinner.” David in Psalm 51 is mourning. He says, “Have mercy on me, oh God. Blot out my transgressions. Wash me from my iniquity. Cleans me from my sin. I acknowledge my transgressions. My sin is ever before me. Lord, don’t cast me away from your presence. Don’t take your Spirit from me.”

Blessed are they that are poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of heaven because it leads to mourning over sin. We mourn over our nature. We mourn over our unbelief. Don’t you?

The centurion did. He said, "Lord, I believe, but help my unbelief."

We mourn over our sins of word, thought and deed. And our Lord said, "Blessed are they that mourn." Why? "They are going to be comforted."

Man never mourned over sin before God without being comforted. You know how we are comforted? We are comforted by the God of comfort who delights to show mercy. We are comforted by our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "Come to me. I'll give you rest." We are comforted by the Holy Spirit whose name is Comforter. The Lord Jesus said, "I'll give you another comforter." We are comforted by the Word of God. The Scripture says, "Comfort one another with these words." We are comforted by God's pastors and preachers. That is what I want to do: comfort God's people, because God told me to do that.

In Isaiah 40 he said, "Comfort my people. Say to them that their sins, iniquities are forgiven. Their sins are blotted out. They have received of the Lord double for all their sin. Tell them that. Tell them that. That will comfort them."

We are comforted forever someday when we awake with his likeness. Blessed are the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of heaven and blessed are they that mourn over their sins and seek mercy because they will be comforted.

Watch the next one. "Blessed are the meek. They shall inherit the earth."

My friends, meekness and humility before God and men is not a product of human nature. No. We are not by nature meek. We are by nature proud. We are not by nature humble. That is not the general characteristic as a human being. We are proud. We are haughty. We are rebellious by nature. Aren't we?

Well, meekness and humility is a heart work. It is a heart work. And it is found in those who have discovered their poverty and discovered their sins and mourned over them and sought the mercy of God.

Saul of Tarsus was a proud, arrogant religious Pharisee. And God humbled him. God brought him down on the road to Damascus. And after that experience he talks like a different person. He says, "I am not worthy to be an apostle. I am not worthy."

He said on another occasion, "I am less than the least of all the saints." This man was an arrogant, arrogant, proud human being. And he met Christ. And our Lord brought him down. "I am less than the least of all the apostles."

And then he said on one occasion, he said, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the chief." Oh, blessed, blessed, blessed are the meek. Blessed are the meek. They will inherit the earth.

God hates pride. Six things God hates and number one is a proud look. Scripture says, "God resisteth the proud. He gives grace to the humble."

There are five things about the humble. I found this somewhere years ago. "Blessed are the meek, the humble, they shall inherit the earth." And here is the reason. The meek give God the glory for what they are and what they have. They give God the glory. They know who makes them to differ. They know a man can receive nothing except it be given him from above. They give God the glory. That's right.

Secondly, the meek are gentle. They are kind people and they care for the feelings of others. They treat softly lest they offend others. They care for the feelings of others and the needs of others. They are gentle people, gentle people. And the meek are teachable. You can teach a meek person, a humble person. You can't teach a proud man. You can only teach a man who is meek and willing to learn.

And then, fourthly, the meek are generous. They actually find their happiness in making somebody else happy. They find their happiness in giving, in helping, in assisting, in making somebody else happy. That's right. They find their happiness in that.

And then, fifthly, the meek are patient. They wait on the Lord.

Well, who else, but these? They are humble. They give God the glory. They are gentle. They are teachable. They are generous. They are patient. Who else would inherit the new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness?

Our Lord dealt with his proud disciples. They were sitting around arguing about who was going to be greatest in the kingdom of heaven, who would sit on the Lord's left hand, who would sit on his right hand. And our Lord took a little child and put that child in the midst of these men arguing over who is the greatest. He set that child in the midst of them and he said, "I am going to tell you something. Except you be converted, brought down, changed, humbled, stripped, broken, unless you be converted and become like this child, you are not even going to enter the kingdom of heaven. Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not. Of such is the kingdom of God."

Blessed are the poor. Theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn. They will be comforted. Blessed are the meek. They will inherit the earth.

Now watch the next one. "And blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness. They will be filled."

Now we know what this natural flesh thirsts and hungers for, don't we? You do. I do. We know what this flesh hungers for: riches, pleasure, honor, popularity, beauty, fame, health, wealth, easy living. But the wise man knows that every one of these things I just named are temporary. They are of the earth. The fashion of this world fadeth away. They are just temporary. They are soon gone. What shall it profit a man if he gains every blessed one of those things and loses his soul?

Our great need is the holiness of God. That's what I need. That's what you need. Who shall ascend into heaven unto the hill of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? Well, David tells us, "He that hath clean hands, perfect outward holiness, clean hands. He that hath a pure heart, perfect inward holiness. He that hath a soul without vanity, only filled with the will and purpose of God. He that has never lied, never spoken deceitfully, never, never, never. That is who is going to stand before God, perfect inward holiness, perfect outward holiness and never lied."

Well, the answer comes no man has this, no man. This is spoken of no man, you, me, no son of Adam has this or ever can have this. But one did. One did. The Son of God, the Son of man. He was perfect. He loved God with all his heart, mind, soul and strength and his neighbor as himself. That's right. He fulfilled every law. The righteousness of Jesus Christ is what Paul was hungering for and thirsting for. He said, "Oh, that I may win Christ and be found in him not having my own righteousness which is of the law, which is of the flesh, which is no righteousness at all. But, oh, that I might have the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ, that I might know him and the power of his resurrection."

I tell you. By the disobedience of one, Adam, we were made sinners. Only by the obedience of one, Jesus Christ, can we be made holy.

Now listen to our Lord. "Blessed are the poor. Blessed are the poor, bankrupt. Blessed are they that mourn over this condition. They desire to be holy. Blessed are the meek. They have discovered this righteousness is not in them or of them or from them, but in him. Blessed are they that hunger for it and thirst for righteousness and know it is found in Christ." And they will not be content until they have that righteousness like Jacob of old when he wrestled with the Lord. He said, "I won't let you go until you bless me."

Lord, I need righteousness. I need forgiveness. I need mercy.

Well, he said, "Ask and you will receive. Seek and you'll find. Knock and it shall be opened. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst not just for streets of gold, not just an opportunity to see mom again, not just to get out of this old world and live in luxury...who hunger and thirst for righteousness, holiness. They will be filled.

"You seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart."

Watch verse seven. "Blessed are the merciful. They shall obtain mercy."

The Lord means what he says. He is not saying that these people receive mercy from God because they are merciful to others. That is not what he is saying. He is saying, "Blessed are the merciful. They shall receive mercy." He is saying that people who consistently show mercy to others, people who consistently forgive others, people who consistently bear and forebear with others, people who consistently love others and are generous to others, they indicate that they are objects of mercy. They indicate that they are objects of kindness. They indicate that they are objects of God's forgiveness. Be ye merciful as

your Father has been merciful to you. Be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. If you forgive not, you are not forgiven. If you don't show mercy, you haven't received mercy. That's right. Our Lord says, "He that loveth not knoweth not God. He that loveth is born of God. See, blessed are the merciful. That's the state they are in. There are people who are merciful, God has made them merciful. God has given them a new nature, a new heart. He that loveth not, knoweth not God. He that is not merciful has never received mercy. He that doesn't forgive has never been forgiven.

Do you see what our Lord is saying?

John Wesley told this story. He was on board a ship coming from England to America to the US. This is 1700 and something. But the new governor appointee of Georgia was on this same boat and the governor's servant was caught stealing the governor's wine and drinking it. And the governor brought him out on board the ship in front of all the people and had him tie him to a mast, strip of his shirt and told him to give him so many lashes.

And John Wesley went up to the governor and he said to him, he said, "Would you show mercy to this man? I am asking. I am pleading on this behalf. I am pleading for this man. He has made a mistake. He has sinned. He has done wrong. But would you forgive him?"

To which the governor replied, "Mr. Wesley, I never forgive. I never forgive."

And Mr. Wesley said, "Sir, I sure hope you never sin for it is certain you will never be forgiven."

If we forgive not others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive yours. Blessed are the merciful. They have obtained mercy.

Verse eight. "Blessed are the pure in heart. They are going to see God."

Now, no true believer listening to my voice today would claim to have a pure heart, a heart pure of sin. No believer professes to be pure without sin in heart motive or thought. What is the Lord saying? Blessed are the poor in heart. They will see God. He is saying that their faith is a pure faith without hypocrisy. Their belief in Christ is a pure belief without hypocrisy. It is true faith, free from insincerity. That is what Paul said. He can help us on this. Blessed are the pure in heart.

My heart is not absolutely pure and yours is not either. But I'll tell you this. It is genuine. My faith is sincere without hypocrisy before God. And that is what Paul says here in 2 Timothy 1:3. He said, "I serve God with a pure conscience. I serve God with a pure conscience. I am honest in my service to God. I am not a hypocrite. I am not covetous of anything you have," Paul said. "I'm serving God."

He said in 2 Timothy two, "Peace to them who call on God out of a pure heart." When you pray and call on God you had better not be a hypocrite. You had better not be a phony. You had better have a pure heart in that regard, sincere.

Peter said, "See that you love one another with a sincere heart, with a pure heart." So that is the pure in heart of people who have sincere, genuine faith in the Lord Jesus Christ without sham, without hypocrisy. A sincere genuine hope is a hope of eternal life through the blood and righteousness of Christ only and not by works. A sincere genuine love for God and for one another is a true love.

All right. Watch verse nine. "Blessed are the peacemakers. They will be called the children of God." Peacemakers.

Charles Spurgeon once said, "The believer is a peaceful person, a peaceful person who ends a quarrel—just stop it—who extends a hand of friendship. A peacemaker is one who seeks unity and reconciliation. A peacemaker is a person that avoids discord and dissention and division among brethren. A peacemaker is one who forgives a misunderstanding, just forgives it. Now a contentious Spirit," Mr. Spurgeon said, "is an unregenerate spirit and a troublemaker is in trouble with God. And a man who sows discord is an enemy of God. And a grudge bearer bears his own grudge which is sin. And a man seeking revenge is not seeking God."

That is as clear as I can make it. A man seeking revenge is not seeking God.

Now, verse 10, "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake. Theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

When our Lord was here on the earth in human flesh he was despised, rejected of man, a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief. And his teachings were contrary to the so called wisdom of the world and the principles and opinions of this world and religion. The world hated him and nailed him to a cross.

Well, he tells us, "The servant is not greater than his Lord." He said, "If they rejected my sayings, they will reject yours. If they hated me, they will hate you. Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and speak evil of you for my sake. Rejoice and be glad. For great is your reward in heaven."

You want this tape, "The Blessed Man." Send two dollars. We will mail it to you. Until next week, God bless you every one.