

Beatitudes Lesson

Matthew 5:1-12

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. ²Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed *are* the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed *are* those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.

⁵Blessed *are* the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
For they shall be filled.

⁷Blessed *are* the merciful,
For they shall obtain mercy.

⁸Blessed *are* the pure in heart,
For they shall see God.

⁹Blessed *are* the peacemakers,
For they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰Blessed *are* those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹²Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Because of the large number of people, he took the opportunity to position himself and his disciples came to him. Got himself into position to teach. Spoke and taught them saying the following.....why is this important to us today and what should it spark us to do? Why listen? Because Jesus is about to teach. If Jesus is teaching, what is he likely getting ready to teach about? Kingdom living...how to live for the Kingdom, how to live down here, how to have victory in everything we do in life.

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit; they get the kingdom.
 - a. Blessed or happy are they that are poor in spirit.
 - b. Spiritually broke folk; if you're broke, ain't a lot of pride involved. Down, not up.
 - c. If the broke folk get the kingdom, then pride must be a major reason why people don't get kingdom membership blessings. Or they are not satisfied or happy with what they

have obtained and because of their humble state....they have access to the Kingdom.
Right now!

- d. Proudful people will have trouble receiving kingdom blessings and rewards in their circumstances unless they become broke.
 - e. Jesus is the example, the cross.
2. Blessed are they that mourn/comforted.
- a. People are happy when they are sad or in mourning because they will be comforted.
 - b. Mourn or feel bad, regret that something went down, grieved, or sad over the loss.
 - c. There is a promise that they will be comforted.
 - d. When Jesus made himself poor and died, they mourned....the next step. He is buried!
 - e. Can't really mourn until something has died or is lost.
 - i. Something has to die first, then something has to be buried.
 - ii. Once it's buried, don't be digging it back up again.
 - iii. People who apologize to me, but haven't really been poor in spirit...usually it's a fake and insincere apology. When you apologize but follow it up with an excuse.
3. Gentle in spirit and attitude, inherit or receive the earth in the future. Reign down here. Own this. Restoration. There is a sequence. First two steps cause you to change your tone.
- a. Hebrew word for "meek" is anav. It is also translated humble, afflicted or poor. Moses was called the most "anav" (humble) man on earth. It is often used to describe the people who called out to God for help in their difficulty, instead of being aggressive in fighting for their own way.
4. Righteousness, longing to be in right standing or in good with God. Closer, not satisfied with where they are now. Want more out of this relationship with a holy God. If we desire it, we will be filled.
5. Merciful, they receive mercy. Because God has shown me mercy, I show mercy to others; and because I need His mercy, I show mercy to others. When I show mercy to others, I'll receive mercy as a result. Mercy = compassion.
6. Pure in heart, see God. Clean heart. Pure motives. Living clean.
7. Peacemakers are happy too, for they will be called sons of God.
- a. Not simply resolving conflicts, but taking back the gospel of peace to those who lack peace. Sharing the good news.

8. The result of having this attitude, you might get persecuted. Being in right standing with God could mean persecution from the world. We should be happy or we can be happy when people persecute or lie on us when we are acting for His sake and glory. Why? Because there is a very great reward behind this. It will be more than worth the trouble.
9. Should be enjoying the blessings and rewards this attitude brings. Levels of blessings.

Matthew 23

¹² And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

¹³ “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in *yourselves*, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.

- Instead of having an attitude that opens heaven to others, their attitude closes it.

¹⁴ Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.

- Instead of comforting those who mourn, they take advantage of their loss.

¹⁵ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

- Will go through great extent to gain a follower, but they become two times more vicious and crueler than them. The opposite of meek.

¹⁶ “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged *to perform it.*’ ¹⁷ Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold? ¹⁸ And, ‘Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged *to perform it.*’ ¹⁹ Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? ²⁰ Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. ²¹ He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it. ²² And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it.

²³ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier *matters* of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. ²⁴ Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!

- Self-righteousness so they are blind to see they lack the righteousness of God. They hunger for something else.
- Blind because they are doing somethings good, but neglected more important matters. They sacrifice but miss ministry to others.

²⁵ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and ^Uself-indulgence. ²⁶ Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

²⁷ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead *men’s* bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸ Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

- False purity and self-righteousness. They look good and appear okay on the outside, but have an unclean heart on the inside.

²⁹ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, ³⁰ and say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.’

- Instead of peacemakers, they contribute to the persecution of the prophets.

³¹ “Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. ³² Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ *guilt*. ³³ Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? ³⁴ Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: *some* of them you will kill and crucify, and *some* of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, ³⁵ that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. ³⁶ Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

ChatGpt response to question on why Moses struck the rock twice?

Moses striking the rock twice instead of speaking to it, as God commanded, is a significant event described in the Bible in Numbers 20:1-13. This act led to serious consequences for Moses and Aaron, preventing them from entering the Promised Land. Here are some key points and interpretations regarding why Moses struck the rock twice:

1. **Anger and Frustration:** Moses might have been frustrated and angry with the Israelites due to their constant complaints and lack of faith. This anger could have led him to act impulsively, striking the rock in a moment of frustration rather than following God's specific instruction to speak to it.
2. **Previous Experience:** In Exodus 17:6, God instructed Moses to strike a rock at Horeb to bring forth water. Moses might have relied on his previous experience and assumed that striking the rock again would be acceptable. This reliance on past methods rather than obedience to the current command could have been a factor.

3. **Lack of Faith and Trust:** By striking the rock instead of speaking to it, Moses demonstrated a lack of trust in God's power and instruction. Speaking to the rock would have been a clear demonstration of God's miraculous provision, while striking it could have appeared as if the miracle depended on Moses' actions.
4. **Disobedience and Misrepresentation:** God specifically instructed Moses to speak to the rock to demonstrate His holiness and authority. By striking the rock, Moses disobeyed God's direct command and misrepresented God's intentions to the people, failing to uphold God's sanctity.
5. **Symbolic Implications:** Some interpretations suggest that the rock represents Christ and His provision. Striking the rock twice might symbolize an improper approach to God's provision, reflecting disobedience and a failure to recognize God's plan and power.

The consequences for Moses and Aaron were severe because their actions were seen as a failure to uphold God's holiness and trust. This incident underscores the importance of obedience and faith in God's commands, especially for leaders who are expected to set an example for the people.