

**The BE attitudes – Part 2**  
Spilman Memorial Baptist Church, Kinston NC  
Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr.  
October 15, 2023

Text: Matthew 5:7-16

Purpose: To help the congregation realize that we will be subjected to injustice in this world, but we still need to be the one reconciling the world to Christ. We are called to be the light of the world and the preserver of our community.

The family's teenage son had just received his brand-new driver's license. To celebrate, the whole family went out to the driveway and climbed into the car for his inaugural drive.



Dad immediately headed to the back seat, directly behind the newly minted driver.

"I'll bet you are back there to get a change of scenery after all those months of sitting in the front passenger seat teaching me how to drive," said the beaming boy to his old man.

"Nope," came dad's reply, "I'm gonna sit back here and kick the back of your seat while you drive, just like you have been doing to me for sixteen years."<sup>1</sup>

Last week we began looking at the Sermon on the Mount. This extended teaching of Jesus covers chapter five, six and seven in the Book of

Matthew. Many people claim this Sermon on the Mount as their theology for life. This passage doesn't talk about the Ten Commandments, but it does talk about Christ coming to fulfill the law. It doesn't talk about the cross, but you can find Christ on the cross in the midst of it. We find teachings about divorce, adultery, prayer, how to treat your enemies, and the two ways of mankind. Jesus said later in the Book of John that He was the light of the world.

What we are examining today in the beatitudes is really a summary of our inward character as a follower of Christ. We need to be humble, broken, meek, merciful, pure in heart, and peacemakers. We come to Christ just as we are, arrogant, prideful, boastful, self-seeking, impure, and selfish. But as we surrender our lives to Christ, He makes us new creatures in Christ. We then, out of our love for God, surrender our will and in doing so, become the light of the world.

The story is told of a drunkard husband who would spend his evenings out at the tavern with his friends. One night around midnight he was boasting that if he brought them all to his house, his wife would get out of bed, and fix them supper without even complaining. The crowd of friends considered that to be vain boasting and bet him a great deal of money to try it. So, the drunken friends came home with him and he made



this unreasonable demand upon his wife. She obeyed, dressed, came down, and prepared a very nice supper just as quickly as possible and served it cheerfully as if she had been expecting them for company.

After super one of the men, a little more sober than the others, asked her how she could be so kind when they had been so unkind to her. Her reply was, "Sir, when my husband and I got married, we were both sinners. It has pleased God to call me out of that dangerous condition. My husband remains in it. I tremble for his future state. Were he to die as he is, he will be miserable forever. I think it is my duty to make his present existence as comfortable as possible." This wise and faithful reply affected the whole crowd. The husband thanked her for the warning, and became a serious Christian and a good husband.<sup>2</sup>

### Blessed are the Merciful...

As Jesus was sitting on that mountain he said, "*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*" (Matthew 5:7)



This beatitude is so misunderstood in our day because it seems to make our obtaining mercy conditional on our being merciful. This is not the condition in which *we* obtain mercy – "*Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his **mercy** He saved us, by the washing and regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost*" (Titus 3:5) We should be merciful *because* we have obtained mercy. "*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you*

*out of darkness into his marvelous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.” (1 Peter 2:9-10) <sup>3</sup>*

### **Blessed are the Pure in Heart ...**

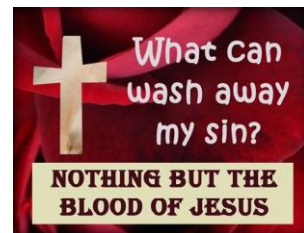
Jesus goes on to say, *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”* (Matthew 5:8)



If we were completely honest, we would admit, none of us are pure in heart. How can that be? The scripture tells us that we have all sinned and fall short of God’s glory. The only way a person can ever claim purity of heart is to claim the only pure person – that person was Jesus Christ, as our representative.

When we invite Jesus into our heart, he comes in and cleans house. Jesus said in John 15:3, “now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. It is by the washing and regeneration of Christ’s sacrifice at Calvary that we are made clean. Only the blood of Christ can cleanse us from all sin.

There is a song written by Robert Lowry that asks the question:



What can wash away my sins?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
What can make me whole again?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
For my pardon what do I see?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my cleansing this my plea?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
Nothing can for sin atone?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
Naught of good that I have done?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
This is all my hope and peace!  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.  
This is all my righteousness!  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

### **Blessed are the Peacemakers...**

Jesus also said, *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called Sons of God.”* (Matthew 5:9)



All around the world there are people calling for “Peace on Earth.” Twenty years ago, Colon Powell traveled to Israel and tried to negotiate a “Peace Plan” for that region. Numerous administrations since Israel’s beginning in 1948 have attempted to find a the mutually agreed upon terms by which both the Palestinians and the Israelis could live in peace with one another. The peace has always been fragile and it erupted once again last Sunday on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the last Yom Kippur War in 1973.



Sadly, once again we see war in Israel has replaced the desired goal of peace. Many Christians are turning once again to the words of Jesus in Matthew 24:6-13. It says,

*<sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.*



*<sup>7</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.*

*<sup>8</sup> All these are the beginning of sorrows.*

*<sup>9</sup> “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.*

*<sup>10</sup> And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.*

*<sup>11</sup> Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.*

*<sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.*

*<sup>13</sup> But he who endures to the end shall be saved.*

I met a nurse last week when I went to the doctor. Her name was Maxine. She described herself as a follower of Christ. She faithfully followed the teachings in the Bible and considered herself a Peacemaker. I believe we are called in this passage to be peacemakers wherever we go. Among our family, friends, and neighbors. We are live in peace with one another.

I am here to tell you that there is only one real peacemaker. That person is Jesus Christ. He alone is able to bring peace in the hearts of men and women. He alone is the one that one day, well put down rebellion and



will reign on earth. He has not come yet to establish that kingdom, but he has promised in his word that he will. Jesus has made peace by his blood with a righteous God and an unrighteous sinner. Paul in Romans tells us, “Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

### **Blessed are those who are Persecuted...**



Jesus reminds us of this difficult truth. *“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”* (Matthew 5:10)

It is hard for us to accept or understand that there are people in this world that are being persecuted for their faith. In



Indonesia Muslims there are killing, beating, and imprisoning Christians simply because they want to come together and worship Jesus Christ. This is not just an isolated incident. Islamic leaders proclaim faithful

followers should take up arms against the nation of Israel. It is the call of the world to come and destroy Judaism. There have been numerous eruptions of antisemitism around the world. So far, America has stood in the way of the entire Arab community in their desire to destroy the nation of Israel. Americans are most hated because of that one issue.

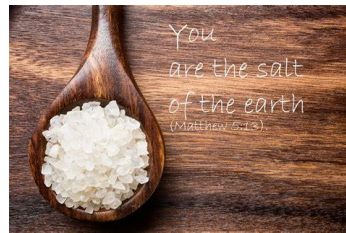
Some people take this verse to imply that when we stand up for our belief at work, or in our community, then we are in many ways persecuted worse than those that are physically beaten. I disagree. It is true that believers are discriminated against. They are whispered about. They are looked over for promotions. But in this verse, we have a promise.

*Blessed are those that are persecuted for righteousness sake.* We are blessed if these happen to us.

Jesus doesn't end his teaching here. It is really just the beginning. This is a word to the followers of Christ. There may be some here that have not accepted Christ, just as in the day when Jesus first spoke these words to his disciples.

### **You are the Salt of the Earth ....**

Jesus reminds us how we should live our lives in the light of all that is going on in the world. He said,



*Ye are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost his savor, Wherewith shall it be salted?*

*It is therefore good for nothing,*

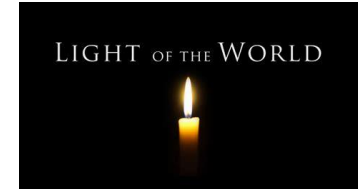
*But to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*

(Matthew 5:13-14)

Salt is really a word for preservative. We are to be involved in preserving our community. Are you actively seeking out ways in which to demonstrate your faith? Are you involved in other people's lives? Are you an encourager, giving to others? Or are you a sponge that is always taking from others?

If you are not doing what God has called you to do, Jesus said that your "salt" may as well be thrown out in the street to be trampled on by others.

### **You are the Light of the World...**



Jesus also said ...

*Ye are the light of the world.*

*A city that is on a hill cannot be hid.* (Matthew 5:14)

If we are to be the light of the world, where does this light come from? Does it come from within our own goodness? Or does it come from Christ that dwells within us? Our light comes as we yield our life to Christ, and his word illuminates our soul. When we come into his presence, we will be reflectors of God's light.

God's light in you does not need to be kept only to yourself. You need to shine Jesus all over your friends, and community. It doesn't say "blast your neighbors with scripture." It says,

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and Glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

(Matthew 5:16)

This introduction to the Sermon on the Mount is God centered – that is theocentric. God is at the center of the activity. It is not man centered – which is anthropocentric. It does not say, "Let your works shine so that they may praise You." It says, "Let your works shine so that God may receive the Glory."



Our aim and purpose in life should be to glorify God. Let us be found doing that this week.

## LET US PRAY



### Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Micky's Funnies, A Drive Funny, Aug. 8, 2023

<sup>2</sup> Practical Bible Illustrations, #556. A Wife's Humility.

<sup>3</sup> Thru the Bible, Dr. J. Vernon McGee, Vol. 4, page 30.