



When Jesus saw the crowds,
he went up the mountain;
and after he sat down, his
disciples came to him. Then
he began to speak, and taught
them, saying:

Matthew 5:1-2

The Mountain

- » 'he went up the mountain' (v1)
- » "The unnamed mountain serves as a symbol for the place of momentous encounter, a place of revelation" (Long)

- » The Beatitudes are in fact true but run contrary to our world's values
- » The world acclaims:
wealth, power, assertiveness,
self-sufficiency
- » The world dismisses the beatitudes as irrelevant

Blessed are the poor in spirit ...

- » Speaks of the desperate ones who stand before God without pretense
- » Stripped of self-sufficiency, self-security, self-righteousness

Blessed are those who mourn ...

- » Mourning the separation we experience from God – ourselves and our culture

1. The Third Beatitude

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Matthew 5:5

Psalm 37

“But the meek shall inherit the land,
and delight in abundant prosperity.”
(v11)

- » Not referring to timidity or passiveness
- » Rather a patient trusting that God will act in due time (Psalm 37:1-2,7)

- » Insistence on non-violence even in a violent society (v8)
- » Contentment with basic necessities not hungry for possessions (v16)
- » Taking delight in the gifts of God (v4)

Meekness (praus)

- » Gentleness
- » Humility
- » Patience

Jesus Words

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle (praus) and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:29

I believe Dr. Lloyd-Jones is right to emphasize that this meekness denotes a humble and gentle attitude to others which is determined by a true estimate of ourselves.

John R. W. Stott

- » Because we see our own fragility clearly we are patient/meek with others

"Inherit the earth"

- » The result – they will inherit the earth
- » Originally speaking to small crop farmers having the right to retain their land (Psalm 37)
- » Ultimately speaks of sharing in the regeneration of the earth

11. The Fourth Beatitude

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Matthew 5:6

- » Righteousness is a recurring theme in Psalm 37 – see verses 16, 21, 25, 28, 29, 30

The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; he is their refuge in the time of trouble. The Lord helps them and rescues them; he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

Psalm 37:39-40

Characteristics of the Righteous

- » Generous with what they have (Psalm 37:26)
- » Speak for the justice of others (37:28, 30)
- » Seek to do good for others (37:27)

- » Righteousness is a gift from God – our salvation (v39) but it also includes our seeking after justice
- » Spanish term – *Justicia* = both justice & righteousness

- » A hungering/thirsting after God with the promise that we will be filled
- » It is an ongoing desire for God

- » What do we really hunger for?
- » What is the basis for our true desires?

III. Conclusion

1. The Beatitudes are meant to encourage us – we are blessed, we are not useless or ignored

2. We are invited to embrace the Kingdom of heaven
 - » Feed on Jesus
 - » Not give in to competition and comparison – the world's values

3. We are invited to live out our mission as the 'salt and light' of the world