

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ SoM, Part 9: Beatitudes, Part 8

Last time...Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God...
one who actively

- makes peace
- brings reconciliation
- loves as God loves e.g. His enemies (Matt 5:44-45)

This time...to conclude the Beatitudes, what we can expect for being Christ-like

v3-9

As is the King, so should be the citizens of the Kingdom

As we live before God and man, our lives being characterized by

- mourning
- meekness
- yearning for Jesus Christ
- mercy (endless forgiveness and compassion)
- purity of heart/being
- making peace with hostile adversaries

what can we expect?

v10-12

Living Christ-like lives, do we get the world's respect? Admiration? Applause?
No...persecution...because

- such a man makes them very uncomfortable
- darkness hates the light
- we smell like death to them (2 Cor 2:16)
- our Christ-like lifestyle confronts the lifestyle of the world

We as citizens of the kingdom of God do to the citizens of the world
as does our King...we give grace, mercy, kindness, compassion, love
The citizens of the world will do to the citizens of the kingdom of God
as their god does – lie, kill, steal, and destroy

We cannot rationally expect anything different

Matt 5:10-12

v10 Blessed

- happy, oh how happy
- fortunate

are

- present tense
- happening now...actual experience vs vague possibility

persecuted

- to be pursued...with the intent to harass or to do harm
- caused to suffer...at the hands of a hostile adversary
- to be troubled persistently...on-going vs one time event

righteousness' sake

- the grounds: doing the right thing in God's eyes...comes at a high price
- obeying the words of Jesus Christ...being a doer, a disciple/follower
- Jesus Christ's sake (1 Cor 1:30)...carrying His name everywhere He so leads

is

- present tense...continually present tense
- as in v3 vs "shall" of v4-9
- today, already, right now
- later today becomes...now
- tomorrow becomes...today, now
 - Time is a flow...we never live in the future
 - When does "is" cease to be "is"?
- So..."is" is a very big and important word used by Jesus!
At the end of time...eternity (Rev 20-21)

kingdom of heaven

- as in v3
- "kingdom of heaven" is used 32x in Gospel of Matthew (written to the Jews) and nowhere else in NT
 - OT concept of heaven is where God dwells and rules over all the earth
 - The Kingdom is as broad and as wide and as deep as Jesus Christ vs the narrowness of Judaism
 - Therefore, God's promise for the future is being fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus Christ, the Son of God...right now
- The Kingdom of heaven has invaded history

v11 Blessed

- happy, oh how happy
- fortunate

ye

- plural “you”
- citizens of the Kingdom
- those who follow their King in v3-9

when

- not “if”
- count on it

shall

- future...with certainty
- so be prepared for it

revile

- defame, taunt, abuse
- to be contemptuous of...as if you are the most foul and disgusting thing
- personally (but not to be taken personally ala Samuel)

persecute

- antagonism...both in the present (v10) and in the future (v11)...
which becomes the present

all manner of evil

- every hurtful, vicious, and degenerate accusation

falsely

- a lie
- slander

for My sake

- the Condition of paramount importance
- on account of Me, not because of us...His Spirit, not our flesh
- in reality, everything said against a citizen of the Kingdom of heaven is said
against Jesus Christ the King

How can we be blessed (oh so happy and fortunate) by being

- persecuted...past, present, and future?
- reviled?
- slandered viciously?

Because the reward is great!

v12 Rejoice

- filled with cheer and joy (transcends circumstances)
- calmly happy (in all circumstances)
- celebrate with joy in light of the persecution, not in spite of it

Acts 5:40-42 they had called the apostles, and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

exceeding glad

- exalting
- jumping for joy

great

- abundant
- in any/every respect

is

- present tense...continual present tense
- now...every moment forever

reward in heaven

- reward is not salvation because salvation is a gift (Eph 2:8-9)
- “bonus” (based on obedience) vs wages (based on merit)
- treasure in heaven...not on earth (Matt 6:19-21)

the prophets

- “good company”
- treated by the world as was
 - The Son of God, The Prophet (Deut 18:15-19)
 - Isaiah
 - Jeremiah
 - Ezekiel
 - John the Baptist
 - etc...Dan 3:16-18, 25, 29

Required:

- God’s perspective...eternal vs this fleeting moment...the end of the matter
- God’s peace...the Sovereign God has everything in His Plan under control
- God’s power...made perfect in our weakness, when we are weak are strong
- God’s presence...Holy Spirit in and upon

Heb 11:13-16, 23-27, 32-39

Heb 12:1-3, 28

Heb 13:5b-6

Rom 4:17-21

faith, and not staggering

Rom 5:1-6

Love for His enemies that persecuted Him

Rom 8:31-39

He will never leave us nor forsake us

Acts 14:22 (after being “stoned to death, the Apostle Paul went back) Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Phil 1:29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake

2 Tim 1:8-13

1 Peter 4:12-14

James 1:2-8

James 5:10-11

To hear, “Well done good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your Lord”...

faithfulness: a love that never gives up

Jesus Christ is faithful...are we?

When we abide in Him, we bear fruit pleasing to the Father – faithfulness,
a love that never gives up

we must expect and calmly endure persecution in the world

Receiving

- the comfort of God’s Word (1 Cor 14:3)
- the joy of the Lord, which is our strength (Neh 8:8)
- the cloud of witnesses who have gone before us

we are equipped by the Holy Spirit to calmly endure whatever the world says and does to us

Manner of Christians in ANF (establish the context, nature of the writings)

- writings of the disciples of the Apostles/eyewitnesses...1st and 2nd century
- words not inspired like the “doctrine of the apostles”
- their Bible is our Bible!

ANF, pages 26-27, Ch 5

ANF, page 54, Ch 10

Testimony of Polycarp, a disciple of the Apostle John

ANF, pages 41-42

The Apologetic (to Roman Emperor) of Justin Martyr, a disciple of Polycarp

ANF, page 166, Ch XI

ANF, page 168, Ch XVII

ANF, page 178, Ch XLV

Gov't persecuting, criminalizing its best citizens!

As is our Gov't while bending over backwards for Muslim refugees that will be
a calamity for the Gov't, a painful perplexity of the nation!

And we can rejoice when we are reviled and persecuted for Jesus' sake because these are not the
last Beatitudes in the prophetic Word of God!

Rev 1:3

Rev 14:13

Rev 16:15

Rev 19:9

Rev 20:6

Rev 22:7

Rev 22:14

v10-12

The choice to follow Jesus Christ into persecution is our choice...

it is the path He walks – suffering and then glory

But the promise of God makes it an easy choice...when we keep in mind

- God's perspective
- God's peace
- God's power
- God's presence

Regardless of circumstances, we can have rest in our spirit because Jesus is with us

He will never leave us nor forsake us...He goes before us everywhere He leads us

Jesus Christ is sufficient for these things

The King and Prophet is saying, "Follow Me."

How?

Rest of SoM

If reviling and persecution is your present reality and you lack the joy to celebrate in the midst of
it, come forward...laying on of hands for baptism of Holy Spirit, our Comforter