

05-04-14

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-3

Title: Blessed...

Matthew 4:23-25

This is where we left off

Going throughout all Galilee

Teaching, proclaiming

Healing

News spreading

Large crowds following...

Next we get into what He was actually teaching

Sermon on the Mount

Chapter 5 – 7

First recorded sermon of Jesus

I can remember my first sermons

Needed some improvement

Needed to learn a “few” things

May think I still do ☺

Not so w/ Jesus

No improvement needed

No learning was needed

He spoke w/ authority

When I prepare a message I search through God’s

Word, I read what others have said, trying to find what it all really means...

Not so w/ Jesus

He wrote the book...

He knew all of it...

He understood all of it...

No searching

No getting others opinions

The crowds

Matthew 5:1-2

Many people followed Jesus – crowds

From all over they come...

Several places speak of the compassion

He had for the crowds

He saw their physical hunger – He fed them

He saw them hurting – He healed them

He saw their deepest need, spiritual hunger – He gave them Himself – He taught them

After He sat down...

This was the typical position for a Rabbi of this day to teach from

When He sat down it gave authority to His word

It made it official

...He opened His mouth

This is a Greek expression used when s. important is being said

S. grave, serious, dignified

S. w/ weight to it

This phrase also used when someone was really sharing their heart

The primary audience was His disciples

They were the ones who would benefit the most

B/c they followed Him

They were able to do what He said

Blessed

Matthew 5:3

3 *"Blessed...*

Jesus' first sermon, first message and what is His first word – blessed, happy

And He just doesn't say it once...

Think of that...

Happy, Jesus wants us to be...

How often do we hear of the things we can't do, the things we have to give up...

Jesus wants us to be happy

And the first thing He starts with is how

The point of this message

What He first begins with is happiness

We're talking real happiness, real joy

Not the kind the world offers

That comes and goes

That is dependent on other things
Real joy, real gladness, real blessedness

Blessed occurs 9 times in verses 3 – 12

Greek – *makarios* – common Greek name

Root word – **makar** – happy, real happiness

Not in the world's sense – happiness
based on circumstances

The Greek gods were said to be blessed in themselves
... a state unaffected by the world of men who
were subject to poverty, weakness and death

The concept in the Greek is a kind of
blissfulness, contentedness, blessedness –
unaffected by circumstance

It is the idea of inward blissfulness, an inner
happiness, joy not produced by or affected by
circumstance

This is a state of well-being that God wants us
to live in

Contented, satisfied

A state of bliss

A state of wellbeing where satisfaction and
fulfillment are found

God is said to be blessed...

Blessedness is a character trait of God

He wants us to have it also

The happiness that Jesus begins His sermon with...
This happiness comes by knowing God
It is only found in Him

Happiness is a biblical concept

Happiness is not a superficial attitude based on
circumstances

It is an inward attitude based on the
inward dwelling of God Himself

The happy people are the poor in spirit, the ones who
mourn, the ones who are gentle, the hungry and thirsty,
the merciful and the pure in heart, the persecuted and
reviled...

Doesn't sound happy to me...

Almost sounds the opposite of happiness

This isn't at all what the world says is happiness...

*Charlie Brown – I think I'm afraid to be happy b/c
whenever I get to happy something bad happens...*

Happiness is a pile of leaves

Chocolate is the key to happiness

*Happiness is when what you think, what you say and
what you do are in harmony*

*Happiness is always knocking on your door you just
gotta let it in*

To be happy...

You have to work a lot

You have to push everyone out of the way

Get what you want, when you want it...

Happiness is doing your own thing
Happiness is grabbing all the gusto you can
Happiness is getting the things of this world
Happiness is being rich and famous

Here's the problem w/ these...

Happiness does not come from the earth which has
been cursed

King Solomon is a good person to look at to
understand happiness

He was the richest king

Royal bloodline of King David

He ate rich foods

He had all the women he could want...

He was the wisest man to ever live

By the world's standard he had it all

Ecclesiastes 1:2

*Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher,
"Vanity of vanities! All is vanity."*

Luke 12:15-16

*15 Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on
your guard against every form of greed; for not
even when one has an abundance does his life
consist of his possessions."*

If you are looking for happiness in the things of this
world – you won't find it

Tree of happiness doesn't grow in cursed soil

Physical things don't touch the soul

Spiritual needs cannot be filled physically
We try to do it all the time – meet our needs w/
physical things – it just doesn't work...

This happiness doesn't involve financial prosperity,
money or success

There were those in Jesus' day who thought He would
over throw the Romans – He will bring happiness
politically – not what He's saying

Jesus' happiness doesn't provide political
success or control

Others in Jesus day tried to find happiness from
religion – following the law – that didn't work either

Jesus' happiness is more than following some
new religious system

Jesus is saying here – happiness is found in Him

He came to bring true happiness

I view all things as rubbish...

Not based on what we have or do

Not based on any political system

Not based on any religious system

This happiness is internal

This happiness can only be found in Jesus

The King is announcing His kingdom, describing His kingdom

It is an internal kingdom, not external

The stress is on being, not doing

Jesus, the King, came to bring happiness

True happiness, true blessedness

That can only come through Him

Through knowing Him

He wants to make us truly happy...

Psalms 144:15

...How blessed are the people whose God is the Lord!

This is not a new way to live

It is a new way to think...

The result is a new way of living

As we get into what it is, the way that we will be happy – these verses are really a sequence

We begin w/ being poor in spirit

This is having the right attitude towards sin

When we have this right attitude it leads to mourning

After we have seen our sinfulness

After we have mourned for it

That leads to meakness – a sense of humility

Then to seeking – to hungering and thirsting for righteousness

That manifests itself in mercy, in purity of heart and in being a peacemaker

The result of being merciful, pure in heart and peacemaking is that we will be reviled, persecuted falsely – by this time our changed life will have irritated the world – they will react

When it's all said and done we can rejoice and be exceeding glad for great is our reward in heaven.

Poor in spirit

Matthew 5:3

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Memorize...

If you were going to talk about being blessed, being truly happy – where would you start...

The first thing you need is \$...

The first thing you need is a life...I mean a wife...I mean...

Where do we start?

Why is this the start?

Why does Jesus begin here?

Poor in spirit...

What is poor in spirit?

Poor in money

Better stop 31 backpacks, Love Inc...

If the poor are blessed then...

Self-sufficiency of the rich really can be a problem

Poor in education

I guess kids – no more school...

Poor in friends

How many do you have?

Facebook for me – 0

God's kingdom can never be entered on the basis of pride – this is what must happen first – the beginning

We can't be filled until we are empty

We can't be worthwhile until we realize
we are worthless

There are lots of books about being filled w/ various things – we have to empty ourselves

There is much talk today of self esteem

Believe in yourself, you can do it

Don't hear much about poor in spirit

Humility, being a nobody...

Can't actually become a Christian, a believer w/o coming to the end of yourself

We must see our need, our utter worthlessness

There is none righteous, no not one

All have sinned

The heart is deceitful above all else and
desperately wicked

We really can go no further as believers until we come to the end of ourselves – poor in spirit

Until we are poor in spirit Jesus has no value
He comes to save b/c we deserve it
We don't deserve salvation – can never
deserve it or earn it

Until we see how doomed we are – we can't see His wondrous love to redeem us

Until we see our utter poverty – we can't understand His riches

In our deadness comes life

This isn't always that easy to come to

All of our lives we're told – you can do it
Believe in yourself...

Need to remember who Jesus was talking to

Disciples – many fishermen

Used to hard work – day after day – catching
fish – selling fish, repairing boats and nets –
more fishing – working

Become poor in spirit

Stop working, stop striving

Undoubtedly some religious leaders were there

They were used to working at their religion –
every day – following the law – big things and

little things – they had it down – they knew
what to do

They actually had nothing – needed to
become poor in spirit – come to the end of
themselves

Others in the crowd – common laborers – barely
scraping by – day to day drudgery – have to keep
going – never getting anywhere...

Come to the end of yourselves...

Become poor in spirit...

*Have a little grand-daughter that will turn 1 this
month*

*She is just learning to walk – she's taken a few shaky
steps – got to see them on a video*

What do we has parents do, should do

Come on, stand up, stand on your own 2 feet

You can make it, you can do it

Jesus is telling us – take a step backwards

Become as a little child...

You can't do this yourself

Come to the end of your strength

Not easy to do

...how has it been going so far, on your own, are you
getting, got it all together...

James 4:6

Step one, the first thing we must do

Come to the end of ourselves

Confess our own unrighteousness

Our inability to meet God's standards
Confess you can't do it – you can't...
God's kingdom is only entered when we see our
utterly helplessness our utter desperation

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom
of heaven...

Conclusion:

We need to remember Jesus came to bring happiness
He came to bring true happiness

He could make everything in our lives go perfect
Come to Jesus and be rich and famous
He makes everything go perfect
That is not what He does

His happiness is not based on the things of this world
His kingdom is not of this world
His happiness comes from surrender
Say what? I can't surrender?

*When one of George Mueller's orphans headed out
into the world, they were given two things
He would place a Bible in one hand, their strong hand
The he would place some coins in their other hand
He would say...hold tightly to God's word
And hold the things of this world loosely*

We can try to hold onto the things of this world...
We cannot, they will slip through our fingers
When we surrender, come to the end of ourselves
See our desperate need, and worthlessness
Grip tightly to the truth of His Word
Become poor in spirit
Stop holding on to this world...
Hold on to His word
That is where we find true happiness
Surrender your life to Him
Repent and trust Him as your Savior
Only He can save you
Live each day in surrender to Him
Our own efforts can never satisfy us
Only Jesus can fill us up
Only Jesus can make us truly happy

*Jim Elliott missionary, martyr to the Auca Indians
summed it up quite well: He is no fool who gives what
he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.*

Benediction:

Philippians 3:7-8

*7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I
have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More
than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the
surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord,*

Sermon outline

05-04-14

Matthew 5:1-3

The c_____

B_____

Poor in s_____