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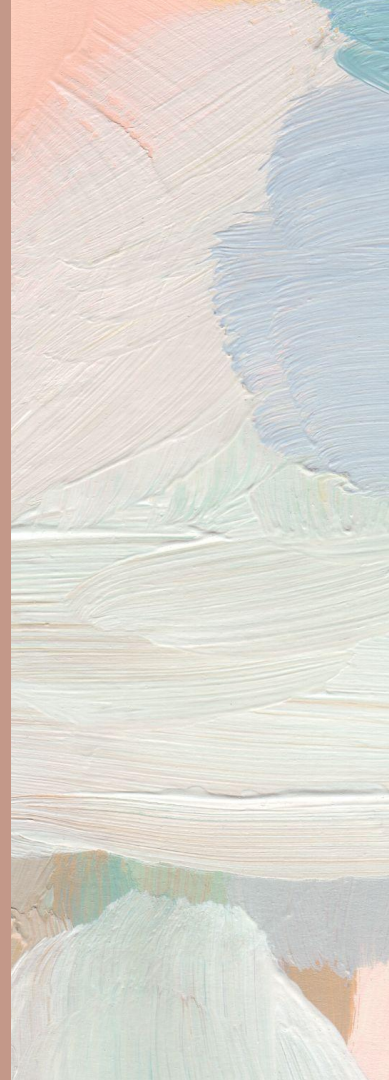
Fulfilled

a study of the Gospel of Matthew

When things go from bad to worse,
withdraw with the Lord (not from Him) and seek
His purpose, not asking why but what now?



- What do you need to leave behind to follow Jesus more fully?
- When Jesus calls, follow Him immediately despite inconvenience or lack of understanding.
- Ask the Lord to find ministry partners to work with you



Where in your life is the Gospel spreading and healing taking place?

Where does it need to?







The Sermon on the Mount is the speech of the King of kings about his new and coming kingdom that is spiritual not political, now and not yet.

- First coming of Christ inaugurated His kingdom
- Second coming of Christ will consummate His kingdom





Now and Not Yet: First day of Fall!

Weather in Houston, September 23

Weather Forecast for September 23 in Houston, Texas - temperature, wind, atmospheric pressure, humidity and precipitations. Detailed hourly weather chart.

September 21






September 22

Select date: 

September 24

September 25

September 23, 2023

	Atmospheric conditions and temperature °F	RealFeel °F	Atmospheric pressure inHg	Wind speed mph	Humidity
Night	 +81°	+88°	29.9	▲ S 9.4	85%
Morning	 +81°	+88°	29.9	▼ SE 6.5	91%
Day	 +91°	 +102°	29.9	▼ SE 6.3	58%
Evening	 +88°	+100°	29.8	▲ S 15.4	71%

The Beatitudes are blessings and good news,
future promises pronouncing spiritual salvation
and spiritual victory:

a new exodus, new inheritance, a new and
better Promised Land for the new Israel, all
followers of Jesus.

The Beatitudes describe a new Kingdom,
new people, and new way.



The Beatitudes *are not*:

- Sweet sayings of Jesus (wikipedia)
- Code of ethics or moral compass
- Personality types
- Spiritual buffet from which to choose
- Checklist to do to be accepted by Jesus



The Beatitudes *are*:

- Outworkings of someone securely saved
- Descriptions of living as a child in God's kingdom
- Cumulative effect of living as a citizen of heaven
- Proclamations of the King of our future reality
- Statements of celebration – you are blessed!



1. Blessed are the poor in spirit

- Condition: spiritual poverty
- Effect: kingdom of heaven is theirs

*“And when you were dead in trespasses ... He made you alive with him and forgave us all our trespasses. He erased the certificate of **debt**, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it away by nailing it to the cross.” Colossians 2:13-14 ESV*



2. Blessed are those who mourn

- Condition: brokenhearted over sin and suffering (yours and others)
- Effect: will be comforted, not condemned

*“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to **bind up the brokenhearted**, to proclaim liberty to the captives ... **to comfort all who mourn**; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit.”* Isaiah 61:1-3



3. Blessed are the humble

- Condition: strength under control
- Effect: will inherit the (new) earth

*“The reward for **humility** and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life.” Proverbs 22:4*

*“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in **humility** count others more significant than yourselves.” Philippians 2:3*

“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” Mt. 20:16



4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

- Condition: deeply desire Christ
- Effect: will be filled, fulfilled, deeply satisfied

“As a deer longs for flowing streams, so I long for you, God. I thirst for God, the living God. When can I come and appear before God?”

Psalm 42:1-2



5. Blessed are the merciful

- Condition: compassion, empathy and concern that leads to action
- Effect: will be shown mercy

“And if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless.” Matthew 12:7 (Hosea 6:6)

“Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time.” Heb. 4:16



6. Blessed are the pure in heart

- Condition: seek God's will and way above all
- Effect: will see God

“For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.” 1 Corinthians 13:12

“They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.” Rev. 22:4



7. Blessed are the peacemakers

- Condition: pursue reconciliation with others actively not passively
- Effect: will be called children of God

“...Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation ...” 2 Corinthians 5:18



7. Blessed are the persecuted

- Condition: suffering for the sake of Christ
- Effect: the kingdom of heaven is theirs

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” Romans 8:35-37



The Beatitudes describe heart transformation,
not behavior modification

- The rules of relationship with God and others is love not legalism

“Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.” Matthew 22:36-40



Heart transformation

“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness.”

Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may reside in me. So I take pleasure in weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” 2 Corinthians 12:9–10



How can we be salt and light to the world through following Jesus?

- **Salt:** Adds flavor, Preserves, Heals, Provokes thirst
- **Light:** Shines in the darkness, Dispels darkness, Heals, Comforts, Provides Hope



Application:

- Meditate on one beatitude a day
- Notice the world's attitude and your attitude towards the beatitude
- Pray and ask God to help you practice the beatitude in your daily life

