

Living in the Image of God

Part 1: The Beatitudes

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What We Will Learn

- The Beatitudes
- Provide eight steps
- For living in the image of God
- Steps 1–3: relationship with God
- Steps 3–8: human interactions
- First part of sermon on the mount
- Teaching on “positive human interaction”
- Matthew 5:1–11

Jesus Starts His Ministry

- Lived in Capernaum, by the lake
- Preached message of repentance
- Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near

Matthew 4 (NIV)

17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

- Recall: Message of John the Baptist

Message of John the Baptist (Recalled)

- Repent from relationships based on predator-prey interactions
- Turn to God's way of life
- Positive human interactions
 - Every person is conveyor of Image of God
 - And channel for God's compassion
- To be admitted to kingdom of God

Ministry of Jesus

- John the Baptist introduced Christ's message
 - The messenger was coming
 - One more powerful and greater than he
- Message of “positive human interaction”
 - Every person is conveyor of Image of God
 - And channel for God's compassion
- Repent from current way of life
- Turn to “positive human interaction”

People Were Drawn to Him

- Selected first four disciples
 - Peter, Andrew, James, and John
 - Focus of another bible study session
- Taught in synagogues
- Preached the good news of the kingdom
- Healed every disease and sickness
- People drawn to him from everywhere
- Matthew 4:23–25

Matthew 4 (NIV)

23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

Matthew 4 (NIV)

24 News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them.

25 Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

Sermon on the Mount

- Took the crowd to a mountainside
- Delivered elaborate message
- First part of message
 - Eight steps for living in the Image of God
 - Known today as the Beatitudes
 - Matthew 5:1–11

Matthew 5 (NIV)

1 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,

2 and he began to teach them.

He said:

Step 1: Poor in Spirit

Matthew 5:3 (NIV)

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

- Human effort is inadequate
- To do what is needed to represent God
- Resign to God to take control
- To prepare for the next step
- You are blessed if you do

Step 2: Spiritual Mourning

Matthew 5:4 (NIV)

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

- Our way of life separates us from God
 - Based on predator-prey interactions
 - “Brood of vipers,” by John the Baptist
- Repent and seek God
- To prepare yourself for the next step
- You are blessed if you do

Step 3: Humility

Matthew 5:5 (NIV)

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

- Humble yourself
- Toward God
- Toward other people

Step 3a: Humility toward God

- Human effort alone inadequate
- To serve God's purpose
- To prepare for the next step
 - Submit to God while doing what you can
 - He will guide you
 - Through what you need to do
- You are blessed if you do

Step 3b: Humility toward Others

- Every person could hold the key
- To a service that you need
- But will not have unless he/she provides
- To motivate another person's goodness
 - Present yourself with goodness
 - And promise of appreciation
- You are blessed if you do

Step 4: Desire for Righteousness

Matthew 5:6 (NIV)

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

- Desire to represent God in all interactions
- Providing others reasonable opportunity
- To feel God through your actions
- Your desire will be satisfied
- And you are blessed if you do

Step 5: Mercy

Matthew 5:7 (NIV)

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

- Be a channel for God's compassion
- Mutual provider-receiver relationships
 - God's provider assistant to others
 - And others will provide to you
- You are blessed if you do

Step 6: Pure in Heart

Matthew 5:8 (NIV)

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

- Let your only motivation
- Be providing for a need
- That God has placed on your path
- To the best of your ability
- You are blessed if you do

Step 6: Pure in Heart cont'd

- If you provide free service
- Your only motivation is to serve the need
- If you provide for-fee service
- Your only motivation is to serve the need
- For a fair (non-exploitative) fee
 - Based on being effective as provider assistant
- You are blessed if you do

Step 7: Peacemaker

Matthew 5:9 (NIV)

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

- Have a peaceful heart
- And desire to instill peace
- In every situation
- You are blessed if you do

Step 8:

Don't Be Afraid of Persecution

Matthew 5:10 (NIV)

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- If others misunderstand and persecute you
- For living in the image of God
- Don't be afraid
- You are blessed even more

What We Learned

- Through the Beatitudes
- Christ provides 8 steps
- For living in the image of God
- Steps 1–3: relationship with God
- Steps 3–8: human interactions
- First part of Christ’s teaching
- On “positive human interaction”
- In sermon on the mount