

The Greatest Sermon Ever Preached

Matt 4:17 - *From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."* NIV

Matt 4:23 - *Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.* NIV

- **It Reveals The Repentance And The Righteousness Which Belong To The Kingdom.**
- **It Describes What Human Life And Human Community Look Like When They Come Under The Gracious Rule Of God.**
- **It Emphasizes That Jesus' True Followers Were To Be Entirely Different From Others.**

THE CALL TO BE DIFFERENT

Matt 6:8 - *Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.* NIV

Lev 18:3 - *You must not do as they do in Egypt, where you used to live, and you must not do as they do in the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you. Do not follow their practices.* NIV

THE BEATITUDES (Thee Attitudes)

Matt 5:1-12 - *Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them, saying: 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.* NIV

THE FIRST FOUR – Preparation of our character toward God.

THE SECOND FOUR – Presentation of our character toward others.

1. "Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit, For Theirs Is The Kingdom Of Heaven.

Luke 18:9-14 - *To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men-robbers, evildoers, adulterers-or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'*

13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' 14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." NIV

2. Blessed Are Those Who Mourn, For They Will Be Comforted.

Ps 51:1-2, 7-12 - Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin...7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. 10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
NIV

3. Blessed Are The Meek, For They Will Inherit The Earth.

4. Blessed Are Those Who Hunger And Thirst For Righteousness, For They Will Be Filled.

Are you...

- **Poor in Spirit** – recognizing your absolute need of Him.
- **Mourning** – truly sorry for your sin and thankful for God's salvation.
- **Meek** – understand who you are in the sight of God and how to properly treat others.
- **Hungering and Thirsting for Righteousness** – just can't get enough of God.