

**The Heart of the Matter Series (The Sermon on the Mount)**

**The Great Contradiction Part 2 (The Beatitudes)**

**Matthew 5:7-12**

**Introduction:**

 **-Three Weeks ago, I introduced a Sermon Series called “The Heart of the Matter” (The Sermon on the Mount). We previewed the message has a whole and how Jesus was not concern about what’s on the outside. He is concerned about the heart of the matter, the heart itself.**

 **-Two weeks ago, I began a 2-Part series on The Beatitudes which I have called The Great Contradiction part 1. Compare to what world has to say what is considered to what Jesus says is a blessed person is completely contradicts one another.**

 **-Part 1 of the Great Contradiction (The Beatitudes) Jesus talked about**

 **-The Poor in Spirit and The Promised Blessing: The Kingdom of God (v. 3)**

 **-Those who Mourn and The Promised Blessing: Comfort (v. 4)**

 **-The Gentle or Meek and The Promised Blessing: Inherit the Earth**

 **-Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness and The Promised Blessing: Filled or Satisfied.**

 **-As we finish The Great Contradiction (The Beatitudes), the term beatitude means blessings. Not only future blessings but they are present blessings as well.**

 **-Again, we will see once again and has I have said before and will continue to say throughout the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is focus on “The Heart of the Matter” and today in the last part of the Beatitudes we continue to see this thought played out.**

**I. The Merciful (v. 7)
 -Those who show compassion. As we become more and more like God, we have to change how we treat people. How do we show more compassion?**

 **1. Giving to the Needy**

 **-Proverbs 14:21: He who despises his neighbor sins, but happy is he who is gracious to the poor.**

 **-Matthew 6:2: So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the street so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have received their reward in full.**

 **2. Forgiving others of sin.**

 **-Matthew 6:14: For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly father will also forgive you.**

 **-Matthew 18:33: Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?**

 **-Hebrews 2:17-18: Therefore, He had to be made like his brethren in all things so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for sins of the people. For since he himself was tempted in that which he has suffered, he is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.**

**II. The Pure in Heart (v. 8)**

 **-Those who walk with integrity before God and before other people has well.**

 **-Psalm 24:3-6: Who can ascend into the hill of the Lord? And who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood and has not sworn deceitfully. He shall receive a blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is the generation of those who seek him who seek your face-even Jacob**

 **-God can only change the unclean heart.**

 **-Psalm 51:6, 10: Behold you desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part you will make me know wisdom… Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

 **-Proverbs 20:9: Who can say “I have cleansed my heart; I am pure from sin?”**

 **-Jeremiah 17:9: The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?**

 **-Matthew 5:19-20: “Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.**

 **-Acts 15:9: and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith.**

 **-Titus 3:5: He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness but according to his mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.**

 **-The Promised Blessing: See God**

 **1. In the Present (How?)**

 **-Seeing God in creation**

 **-Psalm 19:1: The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of his hands.**

 **-Psalm 104:14: He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the labor of man, so that he may bring forth food from the earth.**

 **-Jeremiah 5:24: They do not say in their heart “Let us now fear the Lord our God, who gives rain in its season, both the autumn rain and the spring rain, who keeps us the appointed weeks of the harvest.**

 **-Matthew 6:26, 28-30: “Look at the birds of the air that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns and yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? And why are you worried about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown in the furnace, will he not much more clothe you? You of little faith.**

 **-Seeing God in earthly gifts.**

 **-James 1:17: Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation.**

 **-Seeing God in Work**

 **-1 Corinthians 15:58: Therefore, my beloved brethren be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.**

 **-2 Corinthians 9:8: And God is able to make all grace abound in you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.**

 **-Seeing God in Trials**

 **-2 Corinthians 12:9: And he has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.**

 **2. The Future**

 **-Psalm 17:15: As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; I will be satisfied with your likeness when I awake.**

 **-1 John 2:2-3: and he himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. By this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.**

 **-Revelation 22:4: they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.**

**III. The Peacemakers (v. 9)
 -Those who make peace between offending parties. This is a person who creates an atmosphere of peace.**

 **-with others**

 **-Proverbs 15:1: A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.**

 **-Matthew 5:23-24: Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.**

 **-Romans 12:18: If possible, so far as it depends on you, be a peace with all men.**

 **-between others**

 **-Philippians 4:2-3: I urge you Euodia and I urge you Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.**

 **-Ephesians 4:2-3: with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.**

 **-between others and God**

 **-Isaiah 52:7: How lovely on the mountain are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace and brings good news of happiness who announces salvation, and says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”**

 **-Ephesians 6:15: and having shod your feet with preparation of the gospel of peace.**

 **-2 Corinthians 5:18-19: Now all things are from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.**

 **-The Promised Blessing**

 **-Ephesians 2:13-14: But now in Christ Jesus you who were formerly far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.**

 **-Colossians 1:20: and through him to reconcile all things to himself, having made peace through the blood of his cross; through him I say whether things on earth or things in heaven.**

 **-1 John 3:1: See how great a love the father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know him.**

**IV. The Persecuted (vv. 10-12)**

 **-Those who suffer for being a Disciple of Christ, for righteousness’ sake and for the sake of Christ. This is not an attitude as much as it is a result of a new kingdom attitude. When we are like Christ, we can expect to be treated like he was.**

 **-Proverbs 29:10: Men of bloodshed hate the blameless but the upright are concerned for his life.**

 **-John 3:20: “For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed**

 **-John 15:20: “Remember the word that I said to you ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also.**

 **-Acts 5:41: So they went on their way from the presence of the council rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for his name.**

 **-2 Timothy 3:12: Indeed all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.**

 **1 Peter 4:14-16: If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this matter.**

 **-The Promised Blessing: The Kingdom of God**

 **-Present and Future Reward**

 **-Romans 8:28: And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose.**

 **-Hebrews 11:26: considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.**

 **-Treated the Prophets the Same**

 **-Luke 6:22-23: Blessed are you when men hate you, ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil for the sake of the Son of Man. Be glad in that day and leap for joy for behold your reward is great in heaven. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets.**

**Conclusion:**

 **-The beatitudes. I would say is a Great Contradiction compared to what society and the world teaches.**

 **-Remember happiness comes from earthly things, and Blessedness comes from God.**

 **-What are you settling for? Where is your heart set on?**