

Sermon on the Mount / Matthew 5:1-12
Bellevue Church of Christ / Auditorium Class - Fall 2015

“Righteousness” in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3 – 6:34)

- 5:3-12 For a fortunate life, follow the “steps” to **righteousness**.
- 5:13-16 Let others see this **righteousness** that God may be glorified.
- 5:17-48 Your **righteousness** must exceed the scribes and the Pharisees.
- 6:1-18 Do not parade your **righteousness** to receive glory from others.
- 6:19-34 Seek this **righteousness** before and above material things.

“Blessed” = Fortunate

The Beatitudes – Matthew 5:3-12

¹¹Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. *Rom 8:12-18*
2Ti 3:10-13

Step 8: ¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the **kingdom of heaven**.

Step 7: ⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. *Rom 5:1; 12:18-21*
Isa 9:6

Step 6: ⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. *Psalm 24:1-6*

Step 5: ⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. *Matt 18:21-35; Luke 10:25-37;*
Luke 23:34; Acts 7:60

Step 4: ⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. *Psalm 63:1-11*

Step 3: ⁵Blessed are the **meek**, for they shall inherit the earth. *meek = πραΰτης – praus*
James 1:21

Step 2: ⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. *Psalm 51:1-4*

Step 1: ³Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the **kingdom of heaven**. *Luke 18:9-14; Rom 1-3;*
Rev 3:17-19

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Matthew 5:1-2 (ESV)

¹Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

- The “Sermon on the Mount” is the first of five sermons / discourses in Matthew
- Possible parallel is the “Sermon on the Plain” in Luke 6:20-49

Luke 6:20–49 (ESV)

²⁰ And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! ²³ Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.

“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

²⁷ “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either.

³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹ And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

³² “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶ Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

³⁹ He also told them a parable: “Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? ⁴⁰ A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. ⁴¹ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴² How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother’s eye.

⁴³ “For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, ⁴⁴ for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵ The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good,

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and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

⁴⁶ “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you? ⁴⁷ Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: ⁴⁸ he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. ⁴⁹ But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.”

- “Seeing the crowds” references what was said in Matthew 4:23-25

Matthew 4:23–25 (ESV)

²³ And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴ So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵ And **great crowds** followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

- “Disciples” should not be restricted to the Twelve since Matthew had not yet recorded their selection (10:1-4).

Matthew 10:1–4 (ESV)

¹ And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. ² The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

- By the end of the sermon it appears as though the crowds had found him (7:28-29)

Matthew 7:28–29 (ESV)

²⁸ And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹ for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

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The Beatitudes – “Supreme blessedness or happiness”

Verse 3 and Verse 10 form an “inclusio” or envelope, establishing that everything included within concerns the “kingdom of heaven.”

Kingdom of Heaven

Used by Matthew almost exclusively rather than Kingdom of God in Mark and Luke. Literally means Kingdom that is from heaven or Kingdom that is from God. These two phrases can be taken as synonymous:

Matt 19:23–24 = Mark 10:23–25

Matthew 19:23–24 (ESV)

²³ And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”

Mark 10:23–25 (ESV)

²³ And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴ And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”

Matthew 3:2 (ESV)

² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (John the Baptist)

Matthew 4:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 4:23 (ESV)

²³ And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

The Beatitudes answer the following questions:

- Who are those that are considered to be righteous?
- Who will enter the kingdom of heaven?

Righteousness = being in a right relationship with God

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

- "To be poor in spirit is to have a humble opinion of ourselves; to be sensible that we are sinners, and have no righteousness of our own; to be willing to be saved only by the rich grace and mercy of God" (Barnes)
- Convicted of one's own spiritual poverty (spiritual bankruptcy)
 - Exemplified by the tax collector in Luke 18:13 (see below)
- The opposite of "poor in spirit" would be "proud of heart," and those who are such are more like:
 - The Pharisee in Luke 18:9-14

⁹He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

- The Laodiceans in Re 3:17-19

¹⁷**For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.** ¹⁸I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. ¹⁹Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

- Paul's reminds the Roman readers of their spiritual poverty in Romans 1 & 2 – *we must recognize our need before we begin searching for something to fill it.*

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4th Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

- Mourning in a specific sense: over one's own spiritual poverty, one's sinfulness.
- Like David did after his adultery with Bathsheba - Psalm 51:1-4

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! ³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

- Note the relationship between these first two characteristics; Unless one is first "poor in spirit," they will not "mourn" over their spiritual poverty.

5th Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

- Meek = πραῦς – praus - *prah-ooce'* - Apparently a primary word; *mild*, that is, (by implication) *humble*:—meek.
- Willing to allow God to mold our lives with his Word – This humility is required to receive God's Word – James 1:21 "*receive with meekness the implanted Word...*"
- Not out of weakness, but out of humility, realizing one's own poverty of spirit, one's own sinfulness.

6th Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

- They look for the righteousness, which will fill their spiritual poverty. If we truly believe that God's way is the only way, then we are going to desire His righteousness.
- To "hunger and thirst" suggests not a half-hearted search, but one such as David describes in Psalm 63:1

¹O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

- If we are dependent on self, then we will seek satisfaction elsewhere (the world)

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7th Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

- Loving towards those in misery (e.g., the "Good Samaritan") – Luke 10:25-37
- Possessing a forgiving spirit toward those who sin against them (Hendricksen)
 - As Jesus had toward those crucifying Him - Luke 23:34

³⁴And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.
 - As Stephen had toward those stoning him - Acts 7:60

⁶⁰And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.
- Jesus stressed this characteristic on several occasions...
 - Later in this sermon, in teaching on prayer - Matthew 6:14-15

¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
 - In His parable of "The Unforgiving Servant" - Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

²³"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his

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debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

- This virtue grows "out of our personal experience of the mercy of God." (Lenski)

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

- Defined as "singleness of heart, the honesty which has no hidden motive, no selfish interest, and is true and open in all things." (Lenski)
- One who is pure in motives, and not simply ceremonially pure as were the Pharisees.
- Refers to one who is sincere, honest, without hypocrisy – Psalm 24:1-4

¹The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, ²for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. ³Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? ⁴He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. ⁵He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation. ⁶Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

- They devote their lives to making peace by following the Prince of Peace
 - Making effort to be at peace with all men - Romans 12:18-21

¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- "At peace with God and thus themselves filled with sweet peace, they live in peace, if possible, with all men and work to keep and to make peace where peace is threatened or lost.
 - "Theirs is the work of true Christians who follow in the footsteps of the Prince of Peace." (Lenski)

Isaiah 9:6 (ESV)

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

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- Jesus is the supreme peacemaker, making peace between God and man (Romans 5:1), and man to man. Our peacemaking will include the promulgation of that gospel.

Romans 5:1 (ESV)

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- The righteousness of God has so permeated their lives that they are being persecuted for it. Romans 8:12-18

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

- The world enjoys its cherished hates and prejudices so much so that the peacemaker is not always welcome. Opposition is a normal mark of being a disciple of Jesus. Genuine righteousness is offensive to the world.

2 Timothy 3:10–13 (ESV)

¹⁰ You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹ my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. ¹² Indeed, ***all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,*** ¹³ while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.