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Sunday Morning  
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## MATTHEW 5 – INTRODUCTION

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### Matthew 5

In Matthew 5 we have the the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, and that portion of His words known as The Beatitudes. WE DON'T WANT TO FORGET THE BACKGROUND to what we are launching into this week - In [Matthew 4:23](#) we are told that Jesus was

going around all of [Galilee](#) teaching in their

synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom. The message was constantly about the Kingdom, accompanied by Jesus healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. Perhaps the message we are going to study may have been THE sermon He would bring to the people - Luke's Sermon on the plain.

We are told that his fame went throughout all of Lebanon and Syria and they brought unto Him people with every imaginable kind of sickness - people who were tormented and those that were possessed with demons, those that were lunatic and those that had the palsy. And he healed them. We are told that great multitudes of people from all of [Galilee](#) and from [Decapolis](#) followed Him.

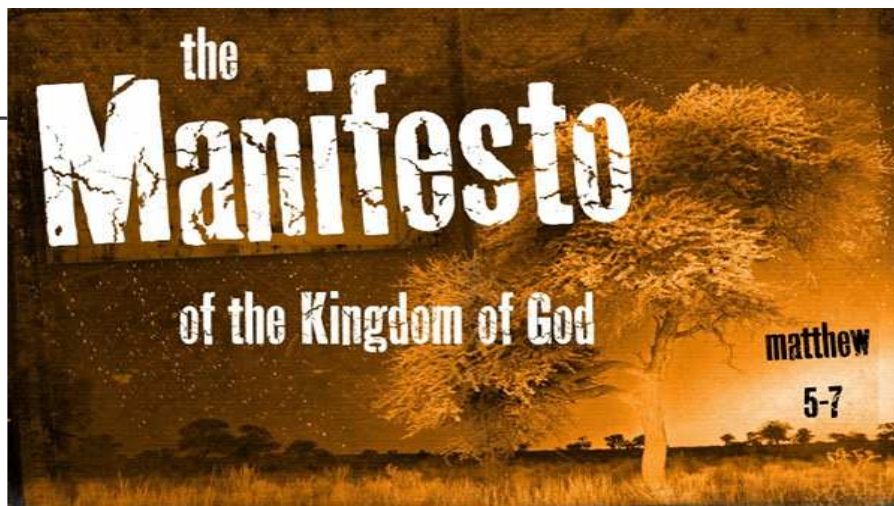
### KEY INSIGHT:

Josephus, the Jewish historian, tells us that there were over 200 cities in Galilee with a population above 10k. That almost seems impossible, but that's what he says in his writings, so that's two million people just in those cities alone, not including smaller villages and towns. So there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee and from Decapolis, from Jerusalem and from Judea and from beyond Jordan. And again, many scholars feel upwards of ten, twenty thousand people at a time following in these days.

### KEY POINT:

We MUST see that THIS was the backdrop to the Sermon on the Mount.

There are blind men that have lived their lives as beggars running back to their old friends that are still sitting somewhere blind and begging and saying to them, come on, you got to see this and their friends are saying, what do you mean see this. And they're saying, that's what I want to tell you about. He's opening the eyes of the blind and you got to come with us! There were guys who were crippled that Jesus had healed and they



went running back to their friends that were crippled saying, He's giving out legs, you gotta come, just taking them with.

### **BY THE WAY: THAT is EVANGELISM -**

A man once blind going back to his blind friends telling them WHO made him to see. A man once lame going back to his crippled friends and telling them WHO made them to walk. There were those who were full of leprosy (So Luke the physician tells us) Which means appendages were gone, probably his nose was gone, his ears. And Jesus, it says, made them whole. That means that fingers, ears, noses popped back again.

Again, there are places that give us indication that as quickly as they were throwing people down in front of Christ - He was touching them and He was healing them. And it was pandemonium! And again, as we noted last week, the very nature of the crowds tell us that something incredible was taking place - There were all kinds of people mixed in together in these crowds that would never be together under any other circumstances. There are Pharisees and Sadducees in the crowd who normally would not rub shoulders. And along side of the Pharisees and Sadducees there were Romans and people from Tyre and Sidon and Syria. It was as Jesus saw all of this pandemonium, that we read

*Matthew 5:1 (ESV) And seeing the multitudes...*

And oh how DIFFERENTLY Jesus saw them than we would.

*Matthew 5:1 (ESV) ... he went up into a mountain: and when he was set,...*

When he sat himself down,

*Matthew 5:1 (ESV) ....his disciples came to him.*

SO HERE IT IS - Jesus sees this crowd and goes up onto a mountain knowing that some people would say, Don't know why He's going up there - let's just go get lunch and wait until he comes back down. You see, Jesus KNOWS that there were those who were simply there for the side show. They were there for the pandemonium, just for the power that was being demonstrated. But Jesus also knew that there were others that were glued to Him. And He knew that as he went up onto the mountain they would take the time to walk uphill, to sit and to hear Him, to follow Him, whatever that cost was. DID YOU KNOW that those uphill moments with Jesus were the places where His followers heard the most incredible things.

### **KEY OBSERVATIONS:**

Besides the Sermon on the Mount there were other uphill moments with Jesus.

- **The Mt. of Transfiguration** - the glory of divine shined through the veil of humanity.
- Then there was **the discourse on the Mt. of Olives**. - how history would roll out up to 2nd coming.
- **The Great Commission** was given on the next mountain.

## KEY APPLICATION:

Have you noticed that the Christian life involves a lot of **UPHILL MOMENTS**? You're walking along with Jesus - You see Him working around you - touching the lives of others - and then, in a sense, He goes up onto a hill side and sits down - giving you the choice to WALK UP HILL to hear Him and learn of Him! Not a literal hill, mind you, but a trial.... A circumstance.... that calls you to a greater cost to be near Him/hear Him. You can be like the people who just wanted to be spectators, or you can embrace the trial.... Embrace the challenge and the cost and MEET Jesus up the hill!!

SO HERE IS JESUS - KNOWING that the words that He had to say to them were Spirit and life, withdraws Himself and in order to separate those who were casual followers.... who were there just for the side show of the whole miraculous ministry from those who were longing in their hearts to KNOW Jesus. They wanted so much more because they not only saw the power, but they heard the words that the kingdom had drawn close.

They wanted to know -How do I ENTER into this kingdom? How do I LIVE in the Kingdom?

*Matthew 5:02 (ESV) And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:*

## KEY INSIGHT:

The Sermon on the Mount is a very misunderstood portion of Scripture. Many people believe that the Sermon on the Mount was given as the guidelines for BECOMING a Christian. That is, they believe that if they do their best to LIVE out the Sermon on the Mount they will EARN their way into heaven.

## KEY INSIGHT:

The Sermon on the Mount was NOT given as a means of BECOMING a Christian. If one takes the Sermon on the Mount seriously he will find out that The Sermon on the Mount is impossible to live out. You find that God's standard of righteousness is unattainable!

## KEY OBSERVATION:

The Sermon on the Mount applies only to those who are His disciples. A person who is not a disciple of Jesus Christ would have an extremely difficult time with this "Master Piece", because it doesn't have any application to him. Jesus is going to TEACH His disciples about the Kingdom of God.

Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones called this the MANIFESTO OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD. He will begin with describing the CHARACTER or the NATURE of the Citizen of the Kingdom. This first section of the Sermon on the Mount is referred to as "**The Beatitudes**".

## KEY OBSERVATION:

It was something they never had heard before and they hadn't dreamed of hearing. It was a RADICAL DEPARTURE from the religious teachers of the day who were telling them how they had to live in order to gain access to heaven.

## KEY INSIGHT:

For the most part Pharisees and Sadducees prayed nine hours a day.

Some of them fasted three times a week. They were very austere with their robes and with their religious practice, but there was no heart. So what these people - the uphill people - were expecting to hear about the kingdom was probably more about the Law and about God's judgment.... about keeping rules. And as they follow Christ and he settles down and as He opens His mouth, what they begin to hear is,

Matthew 5:3-10 (ESV)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**KEY OBSERVATION:**

In describing the citizen of His Kingdom, Jesus uses the term "BLESSED". This was a powerful word to those who heard Jesus that day. To them it meant "divine joy and perfect happiness." "**Blessed**" implied an inner satisfaction and sufficiency that did not depend on outward circumstances for happiness.

**KEY INSIGHT:**

This is what the Lord offers those who trust Him!

**KEY OBSERVATION:**

**These are called the BE-attitudes, NOT the DO-attitudes.** These are descriptions of what God causes a person to **BE**, rather than a description of what God wants them to **DO**.

**KEY INSIGHT:**

God places a PREMIUM of BEING, because what we DO flows out of what we ARE. The world says that happiness hinges on what you DO while God says that true happiness hinges upon who you ARE.

They especially deal with our attitudes:

1. Our attitudes towards OURSELVES (v.3)
2. Our attitudes towards SIN and FAILURE (V.4-6)
3. Our attitudes towards the LORD (v.7-9)
4. Our attitudes towards the WORLD (v.10-16)

Matthew 5:3 (ESV) 3 *"Blessed are the Poor in Spirit" ... or HAPPY are the Wretched*

**1) DEFINING THE TERM**

It seems paradoxical to say, "Oh how happy are the poor in spirit". There have been modern translators who have sought to interpret this as, "Blessed in spirit are the poor".

## KEY INSIGHT:

Jesus is NOT speaking about physical poverty. There isn't a blessing in physical poverty unless God leads us into physical poverty. Paul said, I've learned to be abased and to abound. And in that leading of God there is blessing. But there is no inherent blessing, nor spirituality in poverty. Certainly you would rather be poor physically but BLESSED than to be rich and in Betty Ford clinic with an empty heart. But he's speaking about something else here. He's talking about poverty of spirit. Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of God.

## CRUCIAL INSIGHT:

To be poor in spirit means to have a correct estimate of oneself "Poor in spirit" is the exact opposite of the world's attitudes of self-praise, self-assertion and self-esteem.

## KEY EXAMPLES:

- Isaiah - [Isaiah 6:1; Isaiah 6:5 \(ESV\)](#)

*1 "In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple....5 And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"*

The result of a man seeing the Lord in truth, always is; "Woe is me! for I am undone."

- Daniel -  
when he saw the Lord said,

*8 So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength. [Daniel 10:8 \(ESV\)](#)*

- Peter -

*".... fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord". [\(Luke 5:8\)](#)*

## KEY APPLICATION:

When ever you see someone who is proud and haughty, this is a person who has not had a true encounter with God.... Or they have forgotten how awesome and holy the Lord really is.

## 2) DEFINING THE PROBLEM

Man wants to be happy, and he thinks he can only be happy when he thinks well of himself. Thus he orders his entire life to the end that he will feel good about himself. To achieve that end man does a couple of things.

- The world says that in order to feel good about yourself you NEED to look a certain way, live in a certain place, drive a certain car and have certain things. So you begin to make those the attaining of those things the focus of your life so that you can feel good about yourself.

- Man sets his own standards for what is good and bad so that he will come out looking good. He makes himself the final authority on what is good and bad and adjusts those definitions so that he ultimately comes out looking good.

### **KEY INSIGHT:**

By the way, this is probably the GREATEST reason why people become atheists. There SURELY is no intellectual honesty in that philosophy, and there is certainly no rational basis for that philosophy. The ONLY reason for choosing to disbelieve in God is because you do NOT want to stand before God on God's standards. Once a person sets themselves up to be the final judge on what is right or wrong, he also becomes critical of the world around him. He begins to compare himself with those around him.

### **KEY POINT:**

When you compare yourself with me, you might think that you look pretty good! By keeping close account of my faults and flaws you can start feeling pretty good about yourself, thinking, "I'm not that bad". But when you look at the Lord; His purity; His holiness; His righteousness; you must say, "Oh Lord, help me, woe is me, I am undone".

### **CRUCIAL INSIGHT:**

POOR IN SPIRIT is the result of a true evaluation of myself; not in the light of men, but in the light of God. Poverty of spirit is coming to the realization that before a holy God you are SPIRITUALLY BANKRUPT. The man who truly sees God, truly sees himself. It is coming to the realization that you have NO RIGHTEOUSNESS of your own, that you have NOTHING to win a place in heaven.

- Paul said,  
"24Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" Romans 7:24 (ESV)
- Job 25:4-6 (ESV) How then can man be righteous before God? Or how can he be pure who is born of a woman? 5If even the moon does not shine, And the stars are not pure in His sight, 6How much less man, who is a maggot, And a son of man, who is a worm?"  
THAT is what poverty of spirit is.

### **CRUCIAL INSIGHT:**

THAT is the starting point for entering the Kingdom of Heaven. WITHOUT coming to the realization that you are a sinner who is hopelessly guilty before the Holy God of the universe, you will NEVER see your NEED for a SAVIOR! The result of having this experience with the Lord is that the kingdom of heaven now belongs to you. You are now, not only a citizen of the kingdom of God, but you are also His child.

### **NOTE WELL:**

This was an absolutely revolutionary concept compared to the legalistic teachings of the Pharisees.

### **3) DEFINING THE PROCESS -**

We might liken this process by which God bring a man or a woman to the place of being POOR IN SPIRIT to that of being EMPTIED.

### **KEY INSIGHT:**

BEFORE God can FILL us with His love and His life he must first EMPTY us of the pride that stands between us

and Him. Sometimes that can be very painful. He may have to turn our lives upside down to EMPTY us of those things that would make us think well of ourselves.

*Matthew 5:4 (ESV) 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

HAVE YO EVER NOTICED that the kingdom of God is totally upside down from the world that we live in? In God's Kingdom, the way up is down, the way to life is death, the way to gain is to lose! Here is another of those upside down principles - happy are the sad! Everyone in the world is spending their lives in an attempt to AVOID sadness and find happiness. How many here want to be HAPPY? How many here want to be SAD? Fortunes are being made on the BE HAPPY industry. Our world is FILLED with people that are searching for SENSATION. AMUSEMENT REIGNS in American (even amongst Christians). Everywhere one looks there are amusement parks (with complete vacation packages built around them - A hotel at Disney World for \$750/night!)

A = without

MUSE = to think

Amusement = Feel good without thinking!!

#### **KEY OBSERVATION:**

A Kingdom Progression - We MUST note that there is a PERFECT PROGRESSION to the formation of these ATTITUDES that are found in the life of the citizen of God's Kingdom. Having become aware of my true condition in the light of God, my heart is now broken. I mourn over what I see of myself, and in myself.

#### **KEY INSIGHT:**

My HAPPINESS is NOT found in the mourning itself. It is found in the promises of the Lord's comfort and forgiveness. This MOURNING does NOT come (and can NOT come) until I have been EMPTIED of self reliance and self-righteousness. It is when I have been EMPTIED and BROKEN that I begin to mourn over my spiritual condition.

*Psalm 51:8 (NLT) Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me- now let me rejoice.*

WHEN I have come to the end of myself, and I am finally facing the facts that I have no strength, no ability, no power, no way of being right with God, I then begin to cry out to God. It is THEN that I experience His MERCY. It is THEN that I discover His glorious POWER doing in my life what I could have never done for myself. THAT is a place of REAL HAPPINESS! NO ONE can take THAT happiness from me.... It is well with my soul!!

*Matthew 5:5 (KJV) 5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.*

THE KINGDOM PROGRESSION CONTINUES -

This new estimation of myself results in a new ATTITUDE towards others. BEFORE coming to know my true condition before the Lord I was the most important person in the world. All that mattered to me in that state

was that I feel good. But his new estimation of myself (Me - Ek) results in a NEW ATTITUDE towards others. From the vantage point of my spiritual bankruptcy I am no longer in a position to look down on anyone. Rather than looking DOWN on people I begin to esteem them ABOVE myself. I begin - as the trend in my life - to place their needs before my own.

**KEY APPLICATION:**

You can KNOW whether or not you have come to the place of being “poor in spirit” by your attitude towards others - “meekness”.

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