

Beyond Belief Session 3: Apprentices of Jesus

3B: The Beatitudes ~ Who Is Really Well Off?

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Matthew 5:3 - Blessed are the poor in spirit...

- Jesus is picking out people who have nothing going for them spiritually. Those people who have no spiritual goods are precisely blessed. Why are they blessed?

The biggest mistake about the Beatitudes: reading them as if Jesus is citing a _____ as the basis for the blessing.

- They're blessed because *theirs is the Kingdom of the Heavens*.
- It doesn't say that *everyone* who's poor in spirit has the Kingdom of Heavens.
- Anyone who's poverty-stricken spirituality AND has the Kingdom of the Heavens *is blessed*.

Those that mourn.... they're comforted *in the Kingdom of Heaven*.

- It's a list of things that are *not* thought among men to be blessed. The human order puts these people down. The Kingdom of God puts them up.
- They're not up (blessed) because of that *condition*!
- If you look at it that way you'll fall into legalism and teach that this is a list of how-to's.
- Luke 6:24-26 ~ the "woe-be's" ~ you'll have to stop laughing!

Jesus is the _____ man that ever lived on earth. The most capable and creative teacher that ever lived.

He's not dropping laws! Jesus's teaching always goes beyond laws. They go to the heart.

Faith, hope, and love are _____-life conditions.

HOW JESUS TEACHES

You cannot understand Jesus's teachings unless you understand how he teaches.

All of the great teachers know that you teach to _____ people's lives.

- Jesus teaches in the context of your life. The things you believe without even thinking about it.
- One belief in his day was that if you're rich then God had blessed you. And Jesus lets the air out of your balloon and says blessed are the poor. Woe to the rich.
- You don't have to write that down! You're not going to forget that!

Jesus' teachings are like that. He teaches with the power of a logic that gets right down into the heart of your assumptions about where you live and it will not let you go.

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INVERSIONS & REVERSING PRESUMPTIONS

- He's not giving generalizations so you can steer a safe course through life. His generalizations are often not generalizations at all they are inversions.
- They invert the _____ upon which we're living.
- "Give to him that ask of thee..." He's not giving general laws, but is reversing the presumptions! Sometimes people will ask you for something and you will just give it to them. It's not a bad general practice but if you turn it into a law, you could give it to them and hate them.

Jesus' teachings are designed to reverse the presumptions that prevail in the kingdom of humanity apart from God and to bring us into another kingdom in which a different kind of order prevails.

THE FUNCTION OF THE BEATITUDES

The primary function of the Beatitudes is to proclaim the _____ and the _____ of the Kingdom of God.

The Beatitudes say there is no one no matter how far down on the human scale that cannot be _____. No one. If they will receive the Kingdom through faith in Jesus Christ.

When we get the spirit of the Beatitudes, we don't just repeat them, we apply them to ourselves and those around us. *To whom can you go and say blessed?*

Blessed are the _____ for theirs is the Kingdom of God. who would it be? Who is thought to be most hopeless in human terms? Write it down!

They're not blessed because of that condition! (They're blessed in spite of it, because the Kingdom is available to them, too!)

The simple sense of the teachings is, who is well off? Anyone who lives in the Kingdom of God.

- Learn to see blessedness in the light of the Kingdom of God.
- It is wonderfully liberating!
- Blessed are the...

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The **vision of the Kingdom** is the only thing that will rectify all of this.

All the divisions of the blessed and the woe-'be's around us...you can come to the place where you step forth in your life with all of that gone.

That is the way Jesus himself lived!

... until we see that, we're not ready to talk about who is a really good person because the barriers in our life, that are obstructed by our sense of who is well off and who isn't, *will not enable us to love people in the way that Jesus teaches.*

DISCIPLESHIP:

I am _____ to lead my life as Jesus would _____ my life if he were I.

The first major step is to share His _____ of people.

And to understand that the distinctions of up and down and in and out that human beings make are totally irrelevant to our approach to life in the Kingdom.

...to be continued in Session 3's final video... 3C