

PREVIEWS TO THE GOSPEL

Matt. 5: 1 - 12

1. The sermon on the mount is a preview of the principles of the gospel which the apostles were sent to preach in the great commission.
 2. The Beatitudes are not a moral code as some think.
 3. They are filled with principles of the doctrine of Christ.
 4. Jesus was teaching things concerning the kingdom of heaven -- Matt. 4:23
 - (1) He taught these things with authority -- Matt. 7: 28 - 29
- I. BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT -- verse 3
1. The poor in spirit refers to what a man is -- the attitude he possesses.
 2. The poor in spirit are the humble of the earth who recognize their nothingness before God and put their trust in His grace, as opposed to the proud and high-minded who feel no need of God in their lives.
 3. These are the "wayfaring men" and "fools" of Isaiah 35:8:
 - (1) This is not talking about someone who does not have good sense.
 - (2) The "fool" is one who knows he needs help -- I Cor. 3:18
 4. The eunuch is an example of this spirit -- Acts 8: 26 - 35
 5. The people on Pentecost -- Acts 2:47
 6. "*For theirs is the kingdom of heaven*"
 - (1) Those poor in spirit will attain citizenship in the kingdom.
- II. BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN -- verse 4
1. Mourn over the sins of the world, and their own sins.
 2. A genuine sorrow for sin leads to a turning from sin and salvation from sin -- II Cor. 7:10
 3. The Corinthians had not mourned the sin among them -- I Cor. 5: 1 - 2
 4. Only they who mourn their sins will do anything about them.
 5. "*Shall be comforted*" -- have the remission of sins.
- III. BLESSED ARE THE MEEK -- verse 5
1. Meekness means: Self-control and gentleness under difficulties, and in time of great provocation. It is patient, but firm and persevering
 2. Christ is an example of meekness -- Matt. 11: 29
 3. Moses -- Num. 12:3
 4. William Barclay says "Meekness is no "spineless gentleness", and while gentleness is there, behind it is the strength of steel."
 5. Paul -- II Cor. 10: 1 - 2
 6. Eph. 4:2; I Pet. 3: 4; Tit. 3:2

7. "Shall inherit the earth"

- (1) Keep in mind what kind of kingdom Jesus is talking about -- Spiritual -- John 18:36
- (2) Carry the gospel to all the world.

IV. BLESSED ARE THEY WHICH DO HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS -- verse 6

1. Righteousness defined: *Thayer*, p. 149; "In the broad sense, the state of him who is such as he ought to be, righteous; the condition acceptable to God."
2. Man, a sinner, is unrighteous.
3. God could not account righteousness to man while he was guilty, and he would not be guiltless until his sins were removed.
4. God gave His own son to die in man's stead -- I Pet. 2: 21 - 24; Isa. 53: 12; Heb. 2: 9 - 17
 - (1) Our propitiation -- I John 2:2; Rom. 3:25
 - (2) Our ransom -- Matt. 20:28
 - (3) Our redeemer -- Tit. 2:14 -- rescues another from bondage
5. The guilty, having become guiltless in Christ, may now be accounted righteous, or just, in keeping with the exercise of divine justice.
6. The gospel is God's plan to make man righteous -- Rom. 1: 16 - 17
7. "Shall be filled" -- complete forgiveness.

V. THE MERCIFUL -- verse 7

1. As we expect and desire the mercy of God, we must in turn extend mercy to others -- Matt. 6: 14 - 15; James 2:13
2. God's mercy -- Isa. 55: 7; Tit. 3:5; Acts 3:19

VI. THE PURE IN HEART -- verse 8

1. The word "pure" translated means: Clear.
2. The word "heart" means: Understanding
3. The verse could be translated "Blessed are the clear in understanding"
4. "Shall see God" -- John 3:36; See life -- John 3: 3, 5; come into a relationship with God.

VII. THE PEACEMAKERS -- verse 9

1. What is this peace which is to be made?
 - (1) The N. T. teaching on reconciliation is the answer -- Eph. 2: 13 - 16; II Cor. 5: 18 - 21
 - (2) Sin had separated man from God -- Isa. 59: 1 - 2
 - (3) The peacemakers are the peace preachers -- Rom. 10: 13 - 17
 - (4) They preach a:
 1. Gospel of peace -- Rom. 10:15
 2. Kingdom of peace -- Rom. 14:17
 3. God of peace -- Phil. 4:9

4. Christ - "The prince of peace" -- Isa. 9:6

5. His children follow things that make for peace -- Rom. 14:19

VIII. PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE -- verse 10

1. I Pet. 4: 14 - 16; II Tim. 3:12

2. "*Theirs is the kingdom of heaven*" -- Rev. 2:10

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