

111018

- I. My Notes... WWC message 11/11
- II. Series: Let's Live
  - a. Title: Be Attitudes
  - b. Text: Matt. 5: 1-12 NASB
  - c. Quote: People may hear your words, but they feel your attitude. John C. Maxwell  
(Author, Speaker, Pastor)
- III. Veteran's acknowledgement and prayer
- IV. Introduction
  - a. Last week, we began to look at what life today - here on Earth - is all about. We looked at letting the Lord God fight our battles and that we need to learn to trust Him to fix things, to make the wrongs right. And our response to all this is continued focus and awe - we are always to honor the Lord. That is what worship is about. Looking back, for a moment, helps me continue to see the direction to head as we move forward
  - b. Winston Churchill said, "Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference". Believers have been given the privilege to show the world that life can be full of joy and peace. That choosing obedience, acting in service and sacrifice (of self will), and knowing that family and community means much more and brings unity and peace in every circumstance. As Christ followers, our actions and behaviors - the way we live reveal a moral and spiritual standard that is (1) different from the world and (2) a way to live that allows us to find wholeness, completeness... satisfaction and contentment. Too often, it's only when life is good - when everything is going well - when there are no roadblocks, that many will carry a positive attitude in life. And even when things get difficult the thought becomes "if there is just more or better effort then things will get better." Right effort grows out of right attitude... have you ever watched someone attempt to complete a task when they didn't want

to or didn't care? Their attitude impacts the effort. Attitude makes a difference and as Christians we must be aware that our attitude impacts the ideas of who our Lord is to those that are in our circle.

- c. Recently, I have been brought into the lives of many people dealing with health issues. Some issues are huge - they are life altering, and some are not so urgent but still have an impact both physically and emotionally. One thing I have observed is that no matter the magnitude of the problem - a health issue reshapes your thoughts and viewpoints on life and begins to reshape one's priorities. From my past, in my experience, it is choosing to face things head on with a positive outlook that determines the outcome. In fact, it is that way in life. Let's learn that no matter what is going on we can choose to face things differently. We have been set free to be different - to be radical (if you will allow) - to face problems and challenges with peace and joy. "Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you." (Galatians 5:1 MSG). Stress and worry are bondage, they can impact every area of life. We have complete freedom, according to what Christ has done for us. And this freedom means that our views, our thoughts, our attitudes can reflect our choices and beliefs
- d. We, as believers - as people here today, can stand strong in our choice to "serve the Lord with gladness" (ref. Ps. 100:2). It's time to understand, to gain a proper perspective, of how we can live in today's world.

## V. Text

- a. Jesus tells His Disciples (and us) that life can be faced with peace and a positive attitude
- b. Everyday there is an opportunity to choose... life happens and there is going to be some kind of reaction.
- c. Matthew 5:1-12 (NASB)

When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

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

"Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth."

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

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

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

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

"Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

"Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

- d. Here is a positive outlook to the junk that life can pass on
- e. Remember, most Jews had seen from that Pharisees that right living (righteousness) came from external behaviors - fasting, giving, following rules and regulations.
- f. Our behaviors, our faith, grows as a response to the love and grace the Lord God has poured out on us
- g. In the Beatitudes, Jesus tells us that character comes from within. It is reflected in the choices we make and the way we approach and manner we deal with daily life

## VI. Let's Define It

- a. "Blessed" .... I don't do this a lot (some say I don't do it enough), the Greek for this is:
- b. *Makarios* denotes a pronouncement of happiness. This is the word used in the Beatitudes; it is applied even to God, "the glorious gospel of the blessed God" (1

Tim 1:11), and "the blessed and only Potentate" (6:15). *What the Bible teaches*  
Commentary - *Matthew and Mark*.

- c. In everything that life hands us, we can find happiness - we can find joy and peace. As we understand this, the choice of joy becomes more reasonable (and easier) in the face of every hard time or trouble
- d. There are some translations that say "blessed" at the start of each of the statements Jesus makes, there are some that say "happy is" ....
- e. What I would like to say (and no, I am not a Greek scholar) is - there is joy and contentment as we face ... (fill-in the blank)
- f. In life, we battle feelings of inadequacy and worth. What is it that makes me worth God's love and grace?
- g. The feeling the Jews fought was "What must I do to be eligible to enter the Messiah's kingdom? Have I lived righteous enough to qualify?"
- h. Sound familiar?
- i. Let's see what Jesus says about the way we should live

## VII. Understand It

- a. "Blessed are the poor in spirit" (vs. 3). Have you thought about what this means? Is being "poor in spirit" putting yourself down or creating those feelings of being worthless?
- b. Or could it be that we must come to the realization that on our own, that being left to my choices and desires, I fail miserably and need a Savior. I am desperate for the love and acceptance the Lord has to offer.
- c. Being "poor in spirit" is the first step toward the grace and salvation the Lord has to offer
- d. And the result... the kingdom of heaven
- e. Now, have you wondered the reason that Jesus went from being poor in spirit to mourning? It really is the next step.

- f. Once you realize that you have a need... the natural result is to mourn, to grieve and cry out about those short-comings and failures
- g. Sorrow (Weeping) lasts for the night but joy comes in the morning (ref. Ps. 30:5)
- h. And the result of this mourning - just what is needed, comfort
  - i. 2 Corinthians 1:4 (MSG)

He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us.
- i. The next place we find joy and contentment is in gentleness. It's not about you and the effort we spend must be about loving the Lord and others
- j. Do the arrogant and the selfish truly succeed? If they have any success, it is temporal.
- k. Gentleness is not being walked on or compromising. It is a quiet confidence in what you know and believe. It is taking a stand - even if it isn't the "popular" or common ideal.
- l. The result of gentleness is an inheritance. See, when we let the Lord fight for us, the victory is His and we are the beneficiaries. In fact, it states in Rev. 21-22 that we, the gentle - the faithful, will inherit a new heaven and new earth

#### VIII. Our Actions

- a. Happy, satisfied, content are those who "hunger and thirst for righteousness" (vs. 6)
- b. This is intense... being hungry and thirsty are strong longings. These are necessities that must be met, otherwise death will occur.

- c. As believers, we must long for - maintain focus, make it a priority - obedience, right living. We must desire to be filled with the Lord God and that our choice is to do the best we can to do His will
- d. The result of this hunger and thirst is mercy. Being merciful is the result of obedience and serving. It is showing others the compassion and kindness we have experienced in real and practical ways.
- e. Remember, Jesus said we (His Disciples) would be identified by the way they love (see John 13:34-35)
- f. Is there a place in your life that you long for forgiveness, for relief (from hardship or suffering), for understanding and acceptance? That's what mercy is. Believers have been shown these things and they have both the privilege and responsibility to show them to others
- g. Mercy leads to being pure in heart. As I learn to live in the action of love, of mercy, my desire is to honor the Lord God in all that I say and do (ref. Col. 3:17).
- h. Obedience keeps me in right standing, living pure, with honest motives and behaviors.
- i. This commitment, these faithful behaviors, living with integrity come from being pure in heart.
- j. And the result... It is the pure in heart that will see God
- k. Becoming a peacemaker is being a channel for grace and truth in a troubled. Being a peacemaker comes from loving others and having those pure intentions.
- l. Too often, in today's world, we want to fight - to take a stand for what is right. Maybe if we stood in quiet conviction, if we weren't swayed by the temperature of the turmoil around us, then real change would take place.
- m. Being a peacemaker is being a child of God

- a. We have talked about finding contentment, completeness, and fulfillment in several of these life characteristics that Jesus spoke of
- b. He also told us that we could find these same things in the challenges and difficulties of the day
- c. When you are being picked on, criticized, or pointed out for your choices and behaviors, does that seem like being blessed?
- d. Jesus says, "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness..." (vs. 10)
- e. The Christian life is not an easy one. First, learn obedience. Next, live criticized and cajoled. Putting others first, being kind and compassionate, is often a recipe for persecution (harassment, mistreatment).
- f. Living for the Lord, learning Christlikeness, causes believers to stand out from the world.
- g. And being different is fuel for criticism. We have a choice and right living is the answer.
- h. The Lord God will make it right - He will fight for us and He is always victorious
- i. The last place that Jesus speaks about us finding happiness and contentment is in the insults and attitudes of others.
- j. Here's what I know... words hurt...I grew up hearing the childhood adage "sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me".
- k. Here's my honest response to that... Baloney! Words, name calling, insults, demeaning speech hurts a person and tears them down for a very long time
- l. Jesus says that I can find peace and happiness when others pick me apart because of my relationship with Him. I trust it - I don't necessarily understand how that happens but I can trust it
- m. I can rejoice like the Disciples did when they were whipped and persecuted for speaking the name of Jesus (see Acts 5).

- n. I can have peace and rest knowing that God will be the lifter of my head, no matter what

## X. Final Words

- a. Still not convinced? Let's look at the "attitudes" from the perspective of the world...

- b. Congratulations to the entitled, for they grab what they want.

Congratulations to the carefree, for they shall be comfortable.

Congratulations to the pushy, for they shall win.

Congratulations to the greedy, for they shall climb the food chain.

Congratulations to the vengeful, for they shall be feared.

Congratulations to those who don't get caught, for they shall look good.

Congratulations to the argumentative, for they shall get in the last word.

Congratulations to the popular, for this world lies at their feet.

The gospel is more than handy tips for improving our lives this week. It is a comprehensive new outlook on everything, illuminated by God's promise of a glorious future renewing the entire creation through the death and resurrection of Jesus. But God is not the only one making us promises. The world has its own version of events, its own eschatology, its own promises of reward. We must choose. And either way, we will be living by faith. But have you ever met one person who believed and lived by this world's unBeatitudes and came to the end a satisfied, radiant, wise person? Even one? ([www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/ray-ortlund/the-unbeatitudes-2/](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/ray-ortlund/the-unbeatitudes-2/))

- c. Which way of living gives you hope?

- d. Let's Pray

- e. In the weariness of today may God's rest and grace bring you comfort. On your journey may you find the answers you seek to bring you peace. And may the light and glory of the Lord shine on your steps.