

The Attitude of Heart determines the Altitude of our life:

Text: (Matt 5:3-11)

(Matt 4:17) *From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

CITIZENSHIP, *noun* The state of being vested with the rights and privileges of a citizen.

The first four Beatitudes, or "blessed sayings," portray the ideal heart condition of kingdom citizens.

Blessed= Happy; prosperous in worldly affairs; Enjoying spiritual happiness and the favor of God; Enjoying Their Christianity. **DO You?**

How many people do you know who Enjoy/Endure? "I am Blessed!" - "Too Blessed to be Stressed!"

1. The poor in spirit are happy. (Matt 5:3) *Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

They are humble & lowly in their own eyes.

These recognize their sinful condition.

In Sorrow of guilt, thirst after a Redeemer & His Grace.

The Promise is Given: They are fit for the kingdom.

2. Those that mourn are happy. (Matt 5:4)

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

MOURN~to grieve; to be sorrowful

What is it, we as Kingdom citizens have to be sorry about?

Illus: I never wanted to study Apologetics: I am not going to apologize for God.

What is it, we as Kingdom citizens have to be sorry about?

Our Sin, Our Pride, Our Willfulness when we know better.

(2 Cor 7:10) **Godly sorrow which worketh true repentance:**

For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Do You want to be Blessed? Come Clean with God!

The Promise is Given: for they shall be comforted.

(James 4:6) *But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*

3. The meek are happy. (Matt 5:5)

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

MEEK~Appropriately, humble,

Submissive to the divine will;

Not proud, self-sufficient or refractory;

Not apt to complain of divine dispensations.

(Power Under Control) Like a Train.

Christ says, *'Learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest to your souls.'* (Matt 11:29)

Do You Want TO Be Blessed? TRUST GOD in all Things!

The meek are those who quietly submit to God.

Felix Mendelssohn once visited the cathedral at Fribourg.

He had heard of the great organ, went into the organ loft and asked to be allowed to play it.

The old organist, in jealousy for his instrument, at first refused, but after some persistent asking, allowed the great German composer to try the colossal "thunderer" of the cathedral.

After standing by in an ecstasy of delight and amazement for a few moments, he suddenly laid his hands on the shoulders of the musician and exclaimed: *“Who are you? What is your name?”*

“Felix Mendelssohn,” replied the player.

“And can it be that I had so nearly refused to let Mendelssohn touch this organ!”

We often refuse to let God have His way in our life because we are afraid of the outcome.

Little do we know that if we would let God do as He sees fit the outcome would be much greater than anything they could dream of.

Do You Want TO Be Blessed? TRUST GOD in all Things!
Meekness is bearing the insult in silence, or to return a soft answer.

Meekness is the calm assurance that comes from realizing
IT'S NOT ABOUT ME!

Don't take anything personally.

(John 15:20) *Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.*

Thus, there is no Pride to Wound!

Meekness is control of one's emotions & fleshly desires to strike back.

It is the only thing we are Truly in charge of.

The Promise is Given: *for they shall inherit the earth.*

These meek ones are happy, even in this world.

4. Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness are happy. (Matt 5:6) *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

Righteousness is the state of being Right With God!
Our Righteousness was purchased for us by the righteousness of Christ, & confirmed by the faithfulness of God.

(Is 64:6) Our righteousness is filthy Rags.

This vs speaks of our Desire for Close Intimacy with God.
(Is 44:3) *For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:*

Are We Thirsty for Him?

Are We Thirsty for His Will to be Perfected?

Are We Thirsty for His Kingdom to be expanded?

Are We Thirsty for His Name to be exalted?

Our desires of spiritual blessings must be for His Glory.

The Promise is Given: *“for they shall be filled.”*

When we ask for Things God wants/wills for us, He can't help but answer.

**These 1st 4 Attitudes of the Heart are choices we make.
These 1st 4 Attitudes of the Heart will precede the blessing and fulfillment of His Promises.**

These latter five present the actions resulting from this attitude of heart. The Heart is the source of all things.
(Prov 4:23) *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

The Condition of Our Heart is Our Choice.
The Condition of Our Heart has direct bearing on our lives.

5. The merciful are happy. (Matt 5:7)

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
(Micha 6:8)

We are giving any right to retaliation, Vengeance, Malice, to the only person who has the right to Judge. God the Judge.

The Promise is Given: “for they shall obtain mercy”

(Matt 6:14-15) Ironic: Next 2 verses after the model prayer.
For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

(Mark 4:24-25) God is going to measure us with the same standards we measured other people by.

We must have compassion on the souls of others, and help them; pity those who are in sin, and seek to snatch them as brands out of the burning.

6. The pure in heart are happy; (Matt 5:8)

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
Is our heart pure in motive, intentions, desires?

(Heb 12:14) *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:*

Are we at peace with all men?

Do we take some personal pleasure in some private animosity toward some people?

A Pure heart is a prerequisite to entrance into the King’s presence.

(Ps 24:3-5) Clean hands, and pure heart.
On a day-to-day basis, God’s people ought to strive to achieve holiness and purity of life.

The Promise is Given: “for they shall see God”.

The heart must be purified by faith, and kept for God.

Heaven would not be a happy place for the Impure of heart. As God cannot endure to look upon their iniquity, so they cannot look upon his purity.

7. The peace-makers are happy. (Matt 5:9) *Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*

Peace~ Harmony; concord; a state of reconciliation between parties at variance.

They love, desire, & delight in peace between others. They keep the peace that it be not broken, and recover it when it is broken.

If the peace-makers are blessed, woe to the peace-breakers!

The Promise is Given: *for they shall be called the children of God.*

(John 17:21-23) *That they all may be **one**; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be **one** in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be **one**, even as we are **one**: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in **one**; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

Peacemaking displays Christ to the World.

It proclaims the Gospel: He made us to have peace with God

8. Those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake are happy. (Matt 5:10-12) *Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

Your Christianity is Real because it is recognizable to those who hate it.

Real Christianity stands out from Sin.

If its camouflaged it isn't real. (Matt 5:14) *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

This saying is peculiar to Christianity; and it is more largely insisted upon than any of the rest.

The Promise Given: “for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Our sufferings do not merit anything from God; but God will provide that those who lose for him, though life itself, shall not lose by him in the end.

Together, these Attitudes of the Heart, emphasize Being & Living rather than Performing for God's Merit. Because the heart is right, A kingdom citizen responds instinctively to various situations as they arise. These Attitudes of the Heart revolutionize accepted priorities in the face of the world's standard of blessedness.

I. The Results of these Attitudes of the Heart are found in this next section of Scripture: Vs 13-16

Preservative: (Matt 5:13)

Proof: (Matt 5:14-16)

(Rom 12:2) *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that ye may prove** what is that good, & acceptable & perfect, will of God*

The Attitude of Our Heart Determines the Conditions of Our Lives and the Impact of Our Lives:

II. Every Sin has its origin in the heart before it ever is experienced out here.

(Jer 17:9) *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

“ALL THINGS” – More Deceitful & Wicked than Satan.

(Prov 4:23) *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

(Matt 12:35) *A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.*

(Matt 15:18-19) *But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:*

At This point people undoubtedly looked at Jesus and said, “Wait a minute, this sounds like new commandments we have not been given by God”

Jesus reply to that thought process in (Matt 5:17-20)

They still looked at Him with that, “*I’m not following you*”
Kind of like many of you have right now.

Jesus then says, “Let me illustrate it for you!” (Matt 5:)

Vs 21-26 Murder stems from anger
– Which is a sin in the heart!

Vs 27-28 Adultery stems from Lust
– Which is a sin in the heart!

Vs 29-30 Let’s Take Personal Responsibility!

(Rom 13:14) *But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*

“Provision” = Planned in Advance

Planned to sin, or Didn’t Plan Not to Sin!

Vs 31-41 Jesus Illustrates that It takes Planning!

Jesus is saying: *Let’s plan in advance how we are going to respond to some day to day stuff we no is going to come up.*

(Vs 31-32) How are we going to value our Marriage?

(Vs 33-36) How are we going to live Honestly?

This how we boast ourselves, and make other beholding to us so we can have a measure of control over them.

This is a Sin of the Heart!

(Vs 37) How about we Just be honest and trust worthy!

(Vs 38–42) How are we going to handle Insults?

(Rom 12:19) *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*

No Lord! We would rather Repay!

This is a Sin of the Heart!

How are we going to Handle being...

Vs 39 Wronged against my Person – an insult

Vs 40 Wronged against my Property – Its all going to burn up Anyway!

Vs 41 Wronged against my Permission –

Vs 42 Generosity: Stingy with my Time and My Stuff

Vs 43-44 Compassion: Stingy with our Goodness?

Vs 45-47 Faith: Am I going to Trust God to keep score?

Vs 48 Perfect: Complete, w/o opportunity for Satan to cast blame, or get a foothold in your heart.

The Attitude of Our Heart Affects Our Life.

The Attitude of Our Heart Affects Walk with God.

The Attitude of Our Heart is Manifested in Our Treatment of Others.

The Attitude of Our Heart Affects Our Witness to Others of The Reality of God

The Character of God

The Love of God

It all starts with our heart.