

#### Outline to the book of Matthew:

#### I. The King Has Come 1:1-13:53

- 1. The Incarnation and the preparation of the King 1:1-4:11
- 2. The Declaration of the Principles of the King 4:12 7:29
- 3. The Manifestation of the King 8:1 11:1
- 4. The Opposition to the King 11:2 13:53

#### **II.** The Kingdom Has Not 13:54-28:20

- 5. The Reaction of the King, 13:54 19:2
- 6. The Formal Presentation and Rejection of the King, 19:3 25:46
- 7. The Crucifixion and the Resurrection of the King, 26:1-28:20

\*\*\*Subpoints follow Stanley Toussaint's seven main divisions outlined in his commentary.

#### I. THE KING HAS COME 1:1-13:53

The Declaration of the Principles of the King 4:12 - 7:29

(Matthew 5:1-12)

"The Blessings of the Heirs of the Kingdom"

## Outline:

- 1. Important questions
- 2. The 9 Blessings of the Sermon on the Mount vv. 1-12

- 1) What is a beatitude?
  - A pronouncement of blessing
  - Sometimes a reward is included (especially in the NT)
  - Often the NT beatitude has an eschatological focus. (cf. James 1:12)
  - "A beatitude carries with it an implied command to emulate the type of character on whom the blessing is pronounced," Leland Ryken, Short Sentences Long Remembered

- 1) What is a beatitude?
  - The proverbs contain many beatitudes, and the general impression of the blessing is living in the light of God's word.
  - The Word is now made flesh and sharing His pronouncement of blessings under the context of the offered kingdom.
  - "They are pronouncements of blessing upon those Jewish believers who manifest certain spiritual qualities prior to the kingdom's arrival."
     Jeremy Thomas

- 1) What is the context?
  - The forerunner's ministry.
  - Jesus begins His ministry.
  - The Kingdom is ready upon national repentance.

- 1) What are the structural markers of these blessings?
  - There are 9 listed blessings all with rewards.
  - vv. 3-10 appear to be an inclusio with vv. 11-12 being distinct.

## Outline:

- 1. Important questions
- 2. The 9 Blessings of the Sermon on the Mount vv. 1-12

- 1) Blessed are the poor in spirit, v. 3
  - Poor = economically disadvantaged.
  - Spirit = qualifies this poverty as spiritual. (lit. spiritually poor)
  - Not to say they are not spiritually minded but it seems better to see this as a recognition of having nothing to offer God for a spiritual advantage.
  - Perhaps a good synonym phrase would be: "spiritually humble."

- 1) Blessed are the poor in spirit, v. 3 Reward:
  - "For theirs is the kingdom of heaven"
  - The spiritually humble are the heirs of the kingdom pronounced by Jesus.
  - With the inclusio of vv. 3-10, the following blessings are combined qualities that the heirs of the kingdom should have.

- 1) Blessed are the poor in spirit, v. 3 Application:
  - This applied essentially to all believers. It takes spiritual humility to recognize the need to be saved.
  - Is that enough to save someone?
  - Are you letting spiritual pride (self-righteousness) get in the way of you simply trusting the savior?

- 2) Blessed are those who mourn, v. 4
  - "mourn"  $\pi \epsilon \nu \theta o \tilde{\nu} \nu \tau \epsilon \zeta$  (present, active, participle,) = mourning ones.
  - Grief of any kind is ultimately attributed to the fall.
  - The results of the fall will be drastically quelled by the installation of the kingdom.

2) Blessed are those who mourn, v. 4 Reward:

- "For they shall be comforted"
- "comfort' is future tense.
- This comfort will be experienced in the kingdom.

- 2) Blessed are those who mourn, v. 4 Application:
  - Do people experience suffering?
  - Do believers experience suffering?
  - Believers will be comforted!

- 3) Blessed are the meek, v. 5
  - Meek does not mean weak.
  - "meek" = essentially one who is gentle.
  - This describes one who is non-violent.
  - Note the kingdom context.

3) Blessed are the meek, v. 5 Reward:

- "For THEY shall inherit the earth"
- The kingdom's installation is not by the strength or strategy of man, but it will be by the LORD Himself.

- 3) Blessed are the meek, v. 5
  Application:
  - Do we at times try to force God's will into reality?
  - Not to say we don't have a part to play... but is it our job to fulfill it?

- 4) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, v. 6
  - "hunger and thirst" = a figure of speech referencing a appetite or desire.
  - In this case it is a desire for righteousness.
  - Note, the implication... if someone has a desire for righteousness, they recognize that what they have is not satisfactory. This is absolutely NOT true of the religious leaders.

- 4) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, v. 6 Reward:
  - "For they shall be filled" (future tense)
  - Jesus will ensure that this sort of person will likely receive the gifted righteousness by faith.
  - They also will experience the righteousness that describes the kingdom.

- 4) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, v. 6 Application:
  - Do we hunger and thirst for righteousness personally?
  - Do we hunger and thirst for righteousness in all the earth?
  - Does God? ©

- 5) Blessed are the merciful v. 7
  - A good definition I heard for mercy: "Not getting what you do deserve."
  - The merciful is one who is inclined toward forgiveness when wronged.

- 5) Blessed are the merciful v. 7 Reward:
  - "For they shall obtain mercy,"
  - A major theme of the passages in Scripture that speak of judgment is the just measure of judgment. IN the measure we judge others it will be rendered to us.

- 5) Blessed are the merciful v. 7 Application:
  - Review of our Wednesday study on imprecatory prayer and cursing.
  - Do we sit in God's seat and judge?
  - Do we judge with perfect justice?

- 6) Blessed are the pure in heart, v. 8
  - "pure in heart" = someone who has been made this way.
  - Scripture is clear that no one is pure of heart or can achieve pureness in heart.
  - This is however, the result of someone who is justified by faith.

- 6) Blessed are the pure in heart, v. 8 Reward:
  - "For they shall see God."
  - This quality is shared by someone who has been declared righteous by God because of faith. The result is that they will see God.
  - This reward is clearly taught in OT texts regarding the kingdom.
  - God will dwell with His people.

- 6) Blessed are the pure in heart, v. 8 Application:
  - Have you been made positionally "pure in heart?"
  - Do you live practically in this position?

- 7) Blessed are the peacemakers, v. 9
  - Lit. a maker of peace.
  - Someone who seeks peace in disagreements with others.
  - This quality again has a tone related to forgiveness.

- 7) Blessed are the peacemakers, v. 9 Reward:
  - "For they shall be called sons of God."
  - "they shall be called" is a future tense.
  - Signifying that in the future (during the kingdom) is when this reward will occur.
  - Throughout Scripture the mention of inheritance or reward is used to remind the believer to finish well.

- 7) Blessed are the peacemakers, v. 9 Application:
  - The believer is a child of God.
  - The believer must live at peace in the hostile world we live in.
  - This was one of Paul's applications toward the end of Romans.

- 8) Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, v. 10
  - This is in the context of Jesus' ministry in Matthew.
  - Those who suffer for their association with the Messianic movement.

- 8) Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, v. 10 Reward:
  - "For theirs is the kingdom of heaven"
  - Close of the inclusio...
  - All these qualities are to exist in the heir of the kingdom.
  - The rewards are or will be theirs.
  - These qualities are true and inevitable. Jesus is using them to develop His kingdom invitation for that generation.

- 8) Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, v. 10 Application:
  - Can believers today suffer persecution?
  - What is persecution?
  - Do we focus on the glory ahead of us?

- 9) Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake." vv. 11-12
  - Note the irony... Jesus says you are blessed when they curse you.
  - These verses have a tone of warning for those who would follow the Messianic movement.
  - But there is encouragement that they are blessed despite their persecution.
  - The implication is that they will face resistance and persecution so they shouldn't be discouraged away from Jesus when those things occur.

# 9) Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake." vv. 11-12 Reward:

- "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."
- Jesus then pronounces the reward in two facets.
- First, their reward is "great" and "in heaven"
- This is safeguarded and guaranteed by God, and received in the kingdom.
- Second, the prophets of old were persecuted in the same way and so they are in the greatest of company.

# 9) Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake." vv. 11-12 Reward:

- Jesus is preparing His followers for the inevitable persecution they will face because of the growing rejection of the Messianic movement.
- Not much has changed regarding the world's response to those who belong to Jesus.
- We MUST look forward to glory when we live this life.
- This life is "training for reigning."



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