

CHARACTERISTICS OF A BLESSED PERSON

Matthew 5:1-12

INTRODUCTION

Since we are outside right now and on a hill, by God's grace I will preach on the sermon on the mount on a hill but don't expect that we can multiply the food if you didn't bring any.

1. When we sneeze here in Canada, people say, "Bless you..." but the real origin of that is "God bless you."
What is the origin of that?
 - a.) Bubonic plague 590 A.D. – when one sneezes, for them it's a sign that you have the disease and that you won't last long.

Read Matthew 5:1¹Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ²and he began to teach them saying:

*³"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*⁴Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.*

*⁵Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.*

*⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.*

*⁷Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.*

*⁸Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.*

*⁹Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.*

*¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹"Blessed are you when people insult you,
persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and
be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the
prophets who were before you.*

Pray

Background : This is the first sermon of Jesus Christ and he starts it with blessed "makarios"

Etymology:

Called "Beatitudes" from Latin, "beatis" - meaning supremely happy
"Blessed" Greek "makarios" meaning "happy, joyful, glad"
Root word "makar" – it is used by the Greeks to describe happiness that can only be had by the gods.

In short : it means it's a kind of happiness that is above the circumstances of this world

But the question is : What is the basis of our happiness? that you are blessed?

This might help :

1. **On a personal level** : The occasions we say, "Uy, you are so blessed." Or "blessed na blessed ka" are the times for example, when we get a good job or have a nice family or got promoted or have a nice promotion and etc. etc.
2. **On a world's point of view level** : Top 12 happiest nations in the world – Denmark, Switzerland, Austria, Iceland, Bahamas, Finland, Sweden, Bhutan, Brunei, Canada, Ireland, Luxembourg (*survey done by Univ of Leicester, Britain*)

A.) Common Denominators

1. Healthcare being taken cared of by the gov't
2. Relaxed lifestyle because of nature
3. Relatively safe
4. Wealth

Total Population of this twelve : 76,138,300

Total Population of the world : As of 11:33 p.m. Oct. 25, 2008 (Saturday)

6,822,651,240 (*U.S. Census Bureau*)

That's around 1% of the world population

Note : Not surprisingly, most African countries in poverty 80% and low life expectancy rate (39 years old) are at the bottom of the "happiest nations" chart.

The world's formula for happiness : well-being and wealth

BIG QUESTIONS:

1. Can this people living in impoverished condition be happy?
2. Can you be happy even if wala kang pera sa bangko, or nagkasakit ka or you are passed up on a promotion?

Note : Don't get me wrong, there's nothing wrong with well-being and wealth.

Problem : Happiness is a spiritual need and people think that it can be filled by physical things. Sadly, when they get the physical things, they find themselves not happy.

Illustration : 6 weeks before he died, a reporter asked Elvis Presley, "Elvis, when you first started playing music, you said you wanted to be rich, famous and happy. Are you happy?"

"I'm lonely as hell" he replied.

Why? Our Lord wants us to be happy and He is offering us the ultimate source of happiness and yet we only want well-being and wealth at kapag hindi natin makuha o nawala o in danger na mawala sa atin ...sambakol na ang mukha natin.

That's why :

If you fully understand the Beatitudes it is life-changing. I pray that the Holy Spirit open the eyes of our heart today.

I. A BLESSED PERSON DEPENDS ON THE LORD.

1. *³"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Premise: Poor in spirit - ptochos pneuma – someone who has nothing to offer spiritually; one who realizes they need the Lord.

Problem : Spiritual pride ; Lord, nagsisimba naman ako...o tumutulong naman ako sa kapwa ko ha o hindi naman ako nang-agrabyado...*Read Luke 18: ⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'*

¹³"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

¹⁴"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Promise : theirs is the kingdom of heaven (present tense) - you are assured of heaven and God's complete control over your life.

To fully understand what God is offering, here' a sample

Let's exchange the words :

Sample : Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the island of Boracay at wala na siyang kailangang alalahinan pa, everything is provided for.

Explain the kingdom of heaven :

1. What is a kingdom : a place ruled by a king
2. What is the kingdom of heaven : a place ruled by a king who is God!!!

Big question : So how can we enter this kingdom?

Romans 10: ⁹That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

It is through believing that Jesus DID IT ALL FOR YOU since God knows you can't do it by yourself.

2. *⁴Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.*

Etymology : mourn ... “pentheo” – lament

In short : Jesus is saying “Happy those who are sad...” (paradox)...huh?

The real question : Sad about what?

Context is verse 3: Realizing our spiritual bankruptcy

Question : When do you mourn? If you lost something or someone dear to you.

Premise : those who mourn simply because they realize they are sinful and are far away from God.

Problem : I got a job. I've got my loved ones. I have a house. My kids are healthy.

In short : It is only when these things are taken away that we realize we truly need God.

Quote : The test of prosperity is harder than the test of poverty.

Illustration : Daddy's story : someone praying to bless his business..katabi pa niya kapag nagba-Bible study. Nung na-bless yung business, minsan na lang um-attend sa Bible study at malapit pa sa pinto...why? Sa Pinas, binabantayan yung bago niyang kotse at baka may gumalaw.

Read Deuteronomy 8: ¹²Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, ¹³and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God...

Promise : comforted “parakaleo” God's comfort... samahan ka ni Lord.

Example : To those who are already with the Lord, when they experience trial, lost of health or wealth, that's the time also we realize that God is enough.

2 Corinthians 12 : "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

3. *⁵Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.*

Etymology : meek “prays – pronounced pra-us” one who is gentle, mild,

Root : used to describe a colt who has been domesticated or tamed, soothing medicine, or a gentle breeze

Context : (progression) we realize we are spiritually bankrupt, so we mourn because of it and then we submit to the Lord.

Premise : the one who has been tamed to submit to God and to others.

Problem : we want our own way always. We don't want to submit.

Quote : Meek people are powerful people.

Why? They can control themselves. It takes more power to control ourselves and submit.

Example : Meek people don't take matter into their own hands to defend or avenge themselves because they know they have God who is strong to defend them.

Romans 12: ⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Important : Now who says that meek people are weak people. It takes a lot of self control (power) to do good to someone who has just done you evil.

The greatest example of meekness : OUR LORD JESUS !!!!

Important : And someday He will come back again to rule the earth.

THAT'S WHY...

Promise : they will inherit the earth.... (it's in the future tense)

Etymology : inherit "kleronomeo" receive an allotted portion

Do you know the Bible says that there will be a new earth and those who are in Christ will rule with him?

Psalm 37 : ⁹ For evil men will be cut off,

but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.

*¹⁰ A little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look for them, they will not be found.*

*¹¹ But the meek will inherit the land
and enjoy great peace.*

*¹² The wicked plot against the righteous
and gnash their teeth at them;*

*¹³ but the Lord laughs at the wicked,
for he knows their day is coming.*

Proof : it's much more comfortable if you have your own place because you are running that place. Sample : When we arrived here in Canada...

Note : God meant man to "rule" "subdue" the earth if you read in Genesis.

II. A BLESSED PERSON DESIRES THE LORD

*⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.*

Premise : hungers and thirsts for righteousness

Etymology : righteousness (dikaiosynē) – a position acceptable to God.

Problem : we hunger and thirst for the acceptance of people rather than pleasing God.

Illustration : You want to be happy? Stop thinking of what other people might think about you...think about first what God thinks, do it and then the rest will fall into place. Tandaan mo, lahat ng tao may makikita at makikitang kakulangan mo. Ang Dios, if you have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, you are acceptable before Him already...righteous...perfect because He sees what Jesus did for you.

Promise : and you will be filled. (satisfied...fulfilled)

III. A BLESSED PERSON DEMONSTRATES THE LORD

Explain : Ipinapakita Niya kung ano ang character ng Dios.

1. *7Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

Premise : merciful “eleemon” one who helps the afflicted or brings help to the wretched.

Demonstration : What is one of the quickest way to get out of depression and become happy? Find or call somebody who needs your encouragement or your help. Subukan niyo.

Problem : We are too much engrossed with our “own” needs. That’s the reason we become depressed.

Promise : for they will be shown mercy.

Test 1 : a.) What is the golden rule? B.) What did Jesus say?

Read Matthew 7: 12 *So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*

Test 2: Name 5 of the wealthiest people on earth and name 5 Nobel Peace prize winners. (Most of the time, you won’t be able to name correctly)

Now question :...Name 5 people who helped you in times of need. Now when, they will have a need, will you help them or not?

2. *8Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

Premise : pure in heart (katharos kardia) - malinis na puso

God always has pure motives because He is holy.

Do you reflect God?

Problem : Impure motives

Promise : they shall see God.. (optanomai theos)

What does this mean? Sample : Oh I see... they will understand who God is.

For example : Nung may mga bagay na dinisiplina tayo ng parents natin o hindi tayo pinayagan, ilang beses nating narinig...”maiintindihan mo rin ako pag laki mo or pag nagka-anak ka din..” And then pag nagkapamilya tayo, we say, “kaya pala...” simply because the motives of your parents at that time were pure.

3. *⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.*

Context : **Look at the progression** – finds out spiritually bankrupt, mourns for it and because he is broken, he becomes meek and submits to God because he just wants to be right with God and then he manifests the character of God in his life who is merciful and holy (the symbol of the cross) and now..

Premise : peacemaker...one who makes peace.

Question : What kind of peace? (based on the context) Peace between God and men.

Why? *Read Romans 5:9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!*

Important : You can never truly have peace inside unless you have Jesus who is called the Prince of Peace inside you....

Why? Because He will take over your life.

Isaiah 9: ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Our job as peacemakers :

*2 Corinthians 5:16 ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin^l for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Promise : they will be called sons of God (what an honor)

In short, if you are bringing people to Christ, if you are imploring people it just shows that you are truly a new creation

What kind of new creation?

John 1: ¹²Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

IV. A BLESSED PERSON WILL SOMETIMES BE DESPISED BECAUSE OF THE LORD

Read Matthew 5: ¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

There are only two reactions when we share the Good News.

Delighted

Despised

It will not always be smooth sailing... even if you have the purest of motives

Corinthians 2: ¹⁴But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. ¹⁵For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. ¹⁶To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task? ¹⁷Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

But why can we be happy...

v. 11 for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

v. 12 Rejoice and be glad for GREAT is your reward in heaven.

Illustration : Bigyan kita ng \$50 million dollars next week basta sabihin mo lang sa kapitbahay mo about Jesus?

CONCLUSION :

You know why we can be happy when we have this beatitudes?

1. Whatever is happening around you, we know we have the Lord who is taking care of us, who is defending us because you are part of his kingdom and you are his son (child).
2. Whatever is around you, we know that at the end of it all, we are going to inherit the earth and if we are faithful, then we are going to get a great reward in heaven. Work for that reward!!!

The real question again is : Are you part of His government? Are you his child? How? Again...

Romans 10: ⁹That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Part of the etymology of "blessed" is used in Congratulating.