Studying the Beatitudes
Matthew 5:1-6

This week, I will begin a study of the Beatitudes found in Matthew 5:1-6. There are many who would like to understand the Beatitudes better and I am hopeful we can take this opportunity to make that happen.

The Beatitudes are one the most misunderstood of all the scriptures. Most ministers isolate the Beatitudes and cause them to lose their value as practical tools for living and our spiritual development by focusing upon spiritual growth without making application of its earthly application. I would like for us learn how to appreciate both the spiritual and the secular (social) aspects of the Beatitudes. Let us look anew at the Beatitudes.

Matthew 5:1:

Now when Jesus saw the crowds,

He went up on a mountainside and sat down.
His disciples came to him,
2 and He began to teach them.
3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
5 Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

The Beatitudes are a sermon from Jesus on how to live. I once heard a pastor say, **"this is how things really are and this is how My kingdom really works."** The Beatitudes were challenging and remains so.

<u>Matthew 5:1-2</u>: Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

Jesus begins giving instruction the masses. They waited quietly and listened to Jesus teach. Jesus began teaching them how to live a good life and how to live in a land dominated by the Roman Empire.

<u>Matthew 5:3</u>, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

To be "poor in spirit" does not refer to our spiritual condition. It refers to those who understand they are powerless, those who understand this cannot be *earned* by anyone. God is always seeking the surrendered heart. The heart and soul that we are impotent, and God is Omnipotent. You shall have the kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is where God rules. Hence, the "Kingdom of heaven."

<u>Matthew 5:4</u>, "Blessed are those who repent (mourn) their sin, for God will forgive them and restore them to the life he intended them to have."

Verse four really continuation of verse 3. Verse 3 is someone who accepts the fact that he needs Jesus. Without Jesus there is no Grace, their no mercy. Jesus is the Lamb that took away our sins. What is being said in verse four is we admit that in our repentance we are truly in need of a savior.

<u>Matthew 5:5</u>, "Blessed are those who have their strength under control (blessed are the meek, their will, ego), for they will inherit the earth."

Meekness, surrendering in order to succeed. You no longer resist the enemy. You no longer fight the enemy on their terms. You are engaging them on Jesus terms. You slowly infiltrate into their system, you change the system, the people. You change them Jesus way. Inheriting the earth is inheriting the people and their institutions, systems, corporations.

Understand this is difficult to maintain and do. Because we want things to change when and the way we want them to be. Being meek accepts the moment for what it is. This is the moment God has allowed to be in my life. So I will work, so I can rejoice and work to change anything that hinders, is harms or is hurtful.

<u>Matthew 5:6</u>, "Blessed are those who are desperate to do the will of God, for they will long for nothing."

Jesus is saying blessed are those who stand for what He stands for. Who do not tolerate evil or injustice? They will stand for God's right. Not man-made rights. What is being said is that we seek Jesus and His justice like a thirsty man in a desert searches for water who knows that if he doesn't get it, he will die. When you want the righteousness of God you will never want for anything because you have everything that God wants you to have. This is difficult to understand or accept because we do not believe God wants what is best for us. If you become a lawyer, doctor, or chemist it will be because Jesus opened the door for you to get it. Do not believe for one second that God has not allowed everything in your life based upon your faith and loving pursuit of righteousness.

If anyone has a question about the Beatitudes please let me know.

Blessings to all,

Pastor Gool