

***Intro:***

Introduction to Beatitudes/Sermon on Mount. Longest discourse of Christ recorded; Chs. 5-7, all one sermon (7:28).

Main Point of Text: King Jesus proclaims the blessed benefits of denying worldly citizenship to serve in His heavenly Kingdom.

Sermon Point: *Cursed Christians, You Are Blessed!*

***Move 1: Christian, King Jesus pronounces His rule over you as citizens of His Kingdom.***

Vs. 1: "And seeing the multitudes" relates to 4:23-25. Vs. 2: "he opened his mouth". How did Jesus often speak? Parables. Ps. 78:2 (see Lk. 24:44). Jesus expands the Law: vss. 17-20. Preaching on "the mountain" (vs. 1) was the realization of Deut. 18:15-19. Moses came down from Mt. Sinai to bring God's Law to His people. Jesus came down from Mt. Zion to fulfill and expand upon it. "Set down": Kings rule/gives rules while sitting on their throne. Vss. 22-44: you have heard it said, but I say: applies full spirit of the letter of Mosaic Law and corrects its corruption by Pharisees who sat "in Moses' seat" (Mt. 23:2-3). Message: "the kingdom of heaven": 3:2; 4:23; 5:3 10, 19, 20; 6:10, 33; 7:21. Speaks of blessedness of being its citizens, but also His demands upon His disciples, with authority: 7:28-29. Christians, Christ will rule your lives: Jn. 14:15; 15:10; 1 Jn. 5:2-3; 2 Jn. 1:6) Know these truths: Ps. 1:1-2; 119:1; Ps. 94:12.

***Move 2: Kingdom citizens, following Christ's rules in this world is to hurt and bleed for now.***

Vs. 1: "disciples came out to him"; many stayed behind. Antithesis to the world. Look at these *blessings!*: poor in spirit; mourn; meek; hunger and thirst after righteousness; merciful; pure in heart; peacemakers; persecuted, reviled, falsely accused for righteousness/Christ's sake. Sound like curses! The Gospel of the Kingdom is John 15:19-20. You signed on for the Kingdom of Heaven: Jn. 18:36: 'my kingdom if not of this world.' You're in good company: Heb. 11:36-38. Suffering servants of the Suffering Servant.

***Move 3: Kingdom citizens, rewards come for following Christ's rules both here and hereafter.***

Beatitudes are the characteristics of Christians: of their character. Beatitudes are not about outward accumulation but about inner strength: quietness of spirit given by the Spirit within you. True happiness: holiness, wholeness. Of things eternal (will last): of "the kingdom of heaven" (vss. 3, 10): a different realm, reality. Luke 6:19-23 followed by vss. 24-26: woes upon those in this world. Formula of beatitudes: Blessed are (temporal tribulation), *for* (why?), it is temporary, and there is an *eternal* reward. You shall be comforted; you shall inherit the earth; you shall be filled with Christ's righteousness; shall obtain mercy; shall see God!; called children of God! World is passing away, not Christ's words. Jn. 14:27; 16:33. Blessing is having God: Ps. 3:8; Ps. 144:15. Thus, Ps. 40:4; 112:1-3.

***Conclusion:***

***Cursed Christians, You Are Blessed!***