The Beatitudes: A Composite Of The Blessed Character
Matt. 5:1-12

Introduction:

A. Jesus spoke “The Beatitudes” on a mountain in Galilee.
   1. “Beatitude” from latin “beatitudo”, happy or blessed.
   2. Galilee was northern section of “Holy Land”
      a. Nazareth and Capernaum there.
      b. Jesus begins earthly ministry there.

B. Jesus spoke “The Beatitudes” at beginning of “The Sermon On The Mount”.
   1. They covered wide range of topics.
   2. Each a trait of character for every Christian to possess.

Discussion:

I. “Blessed are the poor in spirit” (verse 3).
   A. Realize dependance and unworthiness before God.
      2. Opposite of depending on “things” for security. (cf. Rev. 3:17,18).
   B. Realize need to humbly submit to God and do so. (1 Tim. 6:3-5; cf. Matt. 18:3,4).

II. “Blessed are those who mourn” (verse 4)
   A. Mourn over sins enough to repent. (2 Cor. 7:10; Jas. 4:8-10).
   B. Mourn over sins of brethren enough to seek correction. (1 Cor. 5:2)

III. “Blessed are the meek” (verse 5)
   A. Bear injustice easily, from strength rather than weakness.
   B. Bear injustice without self-vindication–leaves vengeance to God.
   C. Not a passive spineless door-mat. Cf. Jesus (Mt. 11:29) and Moses (Num. 12:3).

IV. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. (verse 6).
   A. Strongly desire to know righteousness. (Acts 17:11).
   B. Strongly desire to see righteousness. (2 Pet. 2:7-8).

V. “Blessed are the merciful” (verse 7 cf. Jas. 2:13).
   A. Merciful toward physical suffering. (1 John 3:17).
   B. Merciful toward lost souls. (Rom. 10:1-4; cf. 2 Tim. 4:1-4).
      1. Enough to convert them. (Jas. 5:19-20).
      2. Enough to insist on their repentance.
      3. Enough to forgive him after repentance.

VI. “Blessed are the pure in heart” (verse 8).
   A. Purity of heart contrasted in outward purity of Jews. (Mt. 23:25,28).
   B. Purity of heart come through faith and obedience from the heart. (Acts 15:9; 1 Thess. 5:23; 1 Pet. 1:22).
   C. Purity of heart must be maintained. (cf. Acts 8:21).

VII. “Blessed are the peacemakers” (verse 9).
   A. Seek to make peace between God and man. (2 Cor. 5:18,19).
   B. Seek to make peace between man and man. (Matt. 18:15-18; 5:24).
   C. Must not seek peace with man at expense of peace with God.

VIII. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake” (verses 10-12).
   A. No virtue in being persecuted, but for righteousness sake. (cf. 1 Pet. 2:20).
   B. Persecuted have reason to rejoice. (v. 12).

Conclusion:

A. Each Christian must make each character trait a part of very being. (Review traits).
B. Each Christian will then have all the rewards mentioned for each trait.
   1. The kingdom of heaven. (vv. 3,10).
   2. Comforted. (v. 4).
   3. Inherit the earth. (v. 5; 1 Cor. 3:21,22).
   4. Shall be filled with righteousness.
   5. Shall obtain mercy
   6. Shall be called sons of God.