

Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church

Sunday Sermon

Date: October 04, 2020

Text: Matthew 5:1-12

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

Subject: Sermon on the Mount, Part 1

In the preceding message from Matthew 5:12-225, we considered the beginning of the personal earthly ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. Upon being baptized by John the Baptist and being given the Holy Ghost which remained on him in His fulness; then being tempted of the devil in the wilderness – of which temptation our Lord overcame with the word of God; Jesus heard that John the Baptist was cast into prison and he departed from the wilderness of temptation into Galilee. He went to Nazareth as Luke tells us, then after preaching in the synagogue of his home town, was forced to leave and came to Capernaum where he dwelt. At Capernaum, He began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Now we come to this fifth chapter and see the beginning of what is commonly called the Sermon on the Mount which continues on through chapters 5, 6, and 7. Here is a companion passage of the same occasion from Luke for Matthew 5:1-12.

CF: Luke 6:20-26 (KJV) *And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God. **21** Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh. **22** Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. **23** Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets. **24** But woe unto you*

that are rich! for ye have received your consolation. 25 Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep. 26 Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

Matthew 5:1 (KJV) *And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:*

And seeing the multitudes, -- as we saw in the closing verse of the previous chapter, great multitudes followed Jesus from almost every area of the nation – from Galilee, from Decapolis, from Jerusalem, from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan.

He sent up into a mountain: -- the mountain is not named, but we understand the mountain to have been in Galilee because that is where Jesus is now ministering.

And when he was set, -- This means that he sat down in a place from whence he would teach his disciples. We will find that Jesus frequently sat down to teach.

Matthew 13:2 (KJV) *And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.*

Luke 4:20 (KJV) *And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.*

I read this passage from Luke, chapter 4, last time as we considered Jesus in the synagogue of Nazareth. After sitting down, he taught them using the scripture he had read in their hearing.

his disciples came unto him: -- After Jesus had sat down in a position to teach, his disciples came unto him. His disciples were

separate from the multitude, but may have been part of it before coming to Jesus.

Matthew 5:2 (KJV) *And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,*

What follows from this verse on through this chapter, through chapter 6, and chapter 7 is spoken to Jesus' disciples. He is teaching his disciples apart from the multitude. Many preachers and commentators refer to verses 3 through 12 as the beatitudes. A beatitude is a declaration of blessedness spoken by the Savior.

The subjects of the kingdom are those born from above. Since the kingdom is spiritual the subjects must be spiritual. The beatitudes give us the characteristics of those who are partakers of the blessings of the kingdom. **They do not speak of what a person should be, or strive to be, but what they are. In the beatitudes we have what might be called spiritual photography – word pictures of a subject of the kingdom taken from different angles – snapshots of the Christian or pictures taken without posing.** The saved person can find himself revealed in the beatitudes.

Matthew 5:3 (KJV) *Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Blessed – The word “blessed” begins each of the nine statements in these twelve verses. This word appears fifty times in the New Testament and is translated from the Greek word: μακαριος makarios *mak-ar'-ee-os*. This Greek word is also translated as: happy and happier. Happy is when one has a feeling of great pleasure or is content in mind because of his circumstance.

are the poor in spirit: -- Blessed or happy is he or she who is poor in spirit which is the very opposite of a proud and boastful spirit. The believer in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior is not self-righteous but is conscious of his lack of personal worthiness — he feels unworthy of the least of God's mercies — he realizes that he is poor and needy, and not sufficient of himself for any good thing.

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. -- "The poor have the Gospel preached": it not only reaches their ears, but their hearts; it enters into them, is applied unto them, they receive and embrace it with the utmost joy and gladness. These shall have eternal glory, which is prepared for them, and shall be given to them. These are born again; they are heirs of the kingdom of heaven and have a right unto it. The poor in spirit are being made fit for that kingdom and shall enjoy it.

Matthew 5:4 (KJV) *Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*

Blessed are they that mourn: -- These are men and women who mourn over their sins. The poor in spirit also grieves over his sins as he struggles for perfection. The Christian is very sensitive to indwelling sin and longs to be perfectly whole. They mourn because of indwelling sin which is always working in them, and because of it, they are in a continual grief of mind. They mourn over the unbelief and lack of faith of their own hearts, notwithstanding the many instances, declarations, promises, and discoveries of God's grace made unto them. Our daily infirmities and many sins of life committed against a God of love, grace, and mercy, grieve the spirit, and dishonor the Gospel of Christ. These also mourn for the sins of others and for the sins of the world. We mourn for the profaneness and wickedness that abound in the earth; and more especially for the sins of those who profess to know Christ as Savior because the name of God and ways of Christ,

are evil spoken of. These, however sorrowful and distressed they may appear, are blessed.

For they shall be comforted. – Praise the LORD. We, who are mourning over our sins and the sins of the world shall be comforted now in this life by the God of all comfort, by Christ the comforter; by the Spirit of God, whose work and office it is to comfort the sons of God. We find great comfort in the Holy Scriptures – the Bible, which was written for our consolation. We are comforted by the blessed promises of the Gospel which shows us that we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ who loved us and gave himself for us. We are comforted by the preachers of God’s Holy word who speak to our comfort and edification, who speak of the love of God and His pardoning grace to us through the blood of Christ. By these, we are made to feel the divine presence and are comforted together with all saints. Praise God, we shall be comforted hereafter when we are forever freed from all the troubles of this life and shall be blessed with uninterrupted communion with Father, Son, and Spirit, and with all the glorified saints where there shall be no tears, no death, no sorrow and no crying because the former things shall have all passed away. We shall reign with Christ a thousand years on this earth and then reign forever as we behold his face in the city of gold on a new earth where there is no more sea and no more sin.

Matthew 5:5 (KJV) *Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.*

Blessed are the meek: -- Meekness is a spirit that does not seek to avenge a wrong. Moses showed his meekness by ignoring the criticism of Aaron and Miriam. He did not avenge their attack upon him, but God avenged him by striking Miriam with leprosy. Meekness must not be confounded with weakness. Christ was meek

but not weak. Those who are meek are not easily provoked to anger. The meek patiently bear with and put up with injuries and insults. Meek people are constantly courteous and cordial to all. Meek men and women have the cruelest thoughts of themselves, and the best thoughts of others. The meek do not envy the gifts and graces of other men and women. Meek people are willing to be instructed and admonished by the very lowliest of the saints and quietly submit to the will of God even in adverse times of the Lord's providence. The meek accredit all they have, and are, to the grace of God.

For they shall inherit the earth. – The meek shall inherit both this present earth in the time of the 1000-years-reign of Christ and also the new earth and the New Jerusalem in eternity where they shall live and reign with Christ forever.

Psalm 37:10-11 (KJV) *For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. 11 But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.*

Matthew 5:6 (KJV) ***Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.***

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: -- We do not hunger and thirst after the riches, honors, and pleasures of this world, but we hunger and thirst after righteousness. Hunger and thirst are metaphors of soul desire, and when combined express a very strong desire. The saved person longs for personal and practical righteousness. By faith he has the imputed righteousness of Christ, but he wants to be personally what he is representatively in Christ. As to his standing, the believer is perfect absolutely. He is justified from all things and no charge can be laid against him. Acts 13:39; Rom. 8:33. But as to

his state, the believer is only relatively perfect. We have not arrived. but are on our way to sinless perfection. Phil. 3:12-14.

Romans 8:33 (KJV) *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*

For they shall be filled. -- If Paul, the greatest of all Christians, confessed he had not attained perfection, it ill becomes anyone else to claim it. However, the promise is that the hungering and thirsting soul shall be filled — he shall ultimately be as good as he now wants to be—and tries to be. With the Psalmist the believer can say, "I shall be satisfied. when I awake with thy likeness" (Psa. 17:15). He can rejoice that He Who has begun the good work in him will perform it until the day of Christ. Phil. 1 :6. Salvation is of the Lord and there are no abandoned souls on the highway to glory.

Matthew 5:7 (KJV) ***Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.***

Blessed are the merciful: -- Who show mercy to the bodies of men; to those that are poor and miserable in this present world, especially to those who are of the household of faith. The merciful sympathize with them and takes whatever steps are necessary to relieve them. The merciful not only speak to them in pity and concern but give to them their needs with readiness and cheerfulness, with affection and tenderness, and with a view to the glory of God. The merciful also show mercy to the souls of men, by instructing such as are ignorant, giving them good counsel and advice: reproving them for sin, praying for them, forgiving injuries done by them, and by comforting those that are cast down. The merciful ones are like the heavenly father, the father of mercies.

2 Corinthians 1:3 (KJV) *Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;*

Luke 6:36 (KJV) *Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.*

[Comments by C. D. Cole] Mercy is more than emotion: it is active good will towards the needy. The good Samaritan showed mercy to the wounded man on Jericho road by ministering to him and by providing for his needs. The story is told of Jacob Bright, father of John Bright, that one day on his way home. he found his neighbor in great trouble on the road. His horse suffered an accident and had to be killed on the spot. As Jacob Bright arrived on the scene, the poor man was surrounded by other neighbors who were expressing their sorrow over his misfortune. To the man who kept on repeating how sorry he was, Jacob Bright said, "I am sorry five pounds. How much are you sorry?"

For they shall obtain mercy. – The merciful shall obtain mercy from others when they are in sorrowful circumstances and in dire need. This is especially true of the Lord's extending mercy to his dear children. Consider this from the pen of the Psalmist:

Psalm 41:1-4 (KJV) *To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. 2 The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. 3 The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness. 4 I said, LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee.*

Consider it, brothers and sisters. When we are in need of help and mercy, we have a very present source to help in our need. We are commanded of the LORD to come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy...

Hebrews 4:15-16 (KJV) *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. **16** Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Matthew 5:8 (KJV) ***Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.***

Blessed are the pure in heart: -- The pure in heart is the ones who are poor in spirit and who grieve over sin. Therefore, purity in heart is not sinless perfection. A pure heart is one who is sincere in his confession of sin and in his desire to love and serve God. But let us emphasize, this purity is not in the head; because people may have pure notions and impure hearts.

It is not in the hand or actions, or in outward conversation only. The Pharisees were outwardly righteous before men, but inwardly full of impurity. This is purity of the heart. The heart of man is naturally unclean; nor is it in the power of man to make it clean, or to be pure from his sin; nor is any man in this life, in such sense, so pure in heart, as to be entirely free from sin. This is only true of Christ and shall be true of glorified saints at the resurrection of the bodies. But such may be said to be so, who, though they have sin dwelling in them, are justified from all sin by the righteousness of Christ and are "clean through the word" or sentence of justification pronounced upon them. This is because of the righteousness of

Christ which is imputed to them. Their iniquities are all of them forgiven and their hearts are sprinkled with the blood of Jesus which cleanses from all sin. These have the grace of God worked in their hearts, which, though as yet imperfect, it is entirely pure. There is not the least spot or stain of sin in it: so they most earnestly desire after more purity of heart in word, in life, and in all conversation. God gives us a new heart when we are quickened just as he will give returned Israel a new heart in that day.

Ezekiel 36:25-27 (KJV) *Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. 26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*

For they shall see God. – No man hath seen God at any time, but the only begotten Son hath declared him. We have not yet seen the Son, but believing, we rejoice now with joy unspeakable and full of glory. And we shall see his face when he comes to take us to himself – and we shall be like Him for we shall see him as he is. We shall see his face and his name shall be in our foreheads. O, brothers and sisters, we, who are pure in heart, shall behold him!

Matthew 5:9 (KJV) *Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*

Blessed are the peacemakers: -- The Christian is not only concerned about peace in human relations; he is also interested in making peace between God and men. And in this sense, he makes peace by preaching the peace Christ made for sinners by the blood

of His cross. Col. 1:20. These peacemakers as Christ's witnesses have the ministry of reconciliation: "To wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them," and as His ambassadors, we implore men and women to be reconciled to God. 2 Cor. 5:19, 20. The world blesses the boisterous, unquiet people of it who can never be still, but are continually thinking of more worlds to conquer, and stirring up the coals of war, division, and sedition. But they are blessed indeed, who study to be quiet, seeking peace, and pursuing it; and are so far from sowing the seeds of discord or stirring up trouble. It is their great study to make peace between God and man, and between a man and his neighbor, doing this in obedience to God, and out of a principle of love to God and men.

For they shall be called the children of God. – The peacemakers are known to be so now by their peaceable disposition which God has worked in them by his Holy Spirit. God has made them to become like the God of peace, and to Christ, the great and only peacemaker, the prince of peace. These will soon be manifest to all creation that they are the children of God at the first resurrection.

Romans 8:22-23 (KJV) *For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.*

Matthew 5:10 (KJV) ***Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness'

sake: -- Not for any crimes they have done; not for unrighteousness and iniquity, as murderers, thieves, and evildoers, but because of their righteous and godly manner of life, which brings upon them the hatred and enmity of the men and women of the world. Saints who live righteously, separate themselves from the ungodly world, and say of themselves that they do not to belong to them. Their righteous life reproveth and condemns the unbelieving world for their wicked lives and practices and therefore fills them with wrath against them; and turns the hearts of the wicked to persecute the righteous.

Those who believe in Jesus as their savior turn from the world to a righteous cause, the cause of Christ and his Gospel. When they make a profession of faith in Christ as savior and Lord, they show a concern for him and his work. By their confession of Christ as savior saints expose themselves to the rage and persecution of men who are yet blind and in their sins. Persecution is either verbal with the tongue or by cruel mockings and reproachful language; or real, wicked deeds, such as confiscation of goods, banishment, imprisonment of body, and innumerable sorts of death. Yet those who are so persecuted, count themselves happy that they are counted worthy to suffer reproach for the savior, their Lord Jesus Christ.

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. – The very same blessedness as the poor in Spirit. They shall be in the kingdom and reign with Christ a thousand years on this earth and then forever on the New Earth and in the New Jerusalem.

Matthew 5:11 (KJV) *Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, -- It is sure that many, if not all, of the saints of God shall be reviled by unbelieving persons. What does it mean to revile? It is to use spiteful and hateful language toward those who believe in Jesus Christ as savior and Lord.

And persecute you, -- Persecutions are sure to come from the unbelieving world.

2 Timothy 3:12 (KJV) *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

John 15:20 (KJV) *Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.*

And shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. – These who unbelieve, who are dead in trespasses and in sins, shall make up things to say against God’s people which are all false. But they do not care to lie, for they are of their father the devil – the father of liars. Why do they do it? It is because of their hatred for God, for Jesus Christ, and those who believe and follow their LORD.

Matthew 5:12 (KJV) ***Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.***

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: -- Because of the honor they bring upon themselves and the glory they bring to Christ and his cause by cheerfully suffering for it. And because of the glory and happiness that shall follow because of their sufferings for Jesus’ name’s sake.

For great is your reward in heaven: -- O, brethren, our Lord shall bring our reward from heaven to give us according as our work shall be.

Revelation 22:12 (KJV) *And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*

For so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

– We can say it no better than the writer of the Hebrew letter says it. How did the unbelieving persecute the prophets which were before us:

Hebrews 11:36-40 (KJV) *And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: **37** They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; **38** (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. **39** And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: **40** God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.*