

A Study of the Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5-7

The Journey Down

The Beatitudes: Matt. 5:1-6

Foundations are essential

- How high up you go is determined by how far down you go.
- We cannot build a new life on the foundation of our sinful nature.



“Blessed” of God: three meanings

- From “blod” and “bletsian” in Old English and associated with the blood sacrifice of Christ.
- Associated with “benedicere” in Latin, meaning to bless others, to speak good words of encouragement and hope.
- Associated with “bliss” meaning spiritual joy or happiness. This is how it is used in the Beatitudes. “Happy are the poor in spirit...”

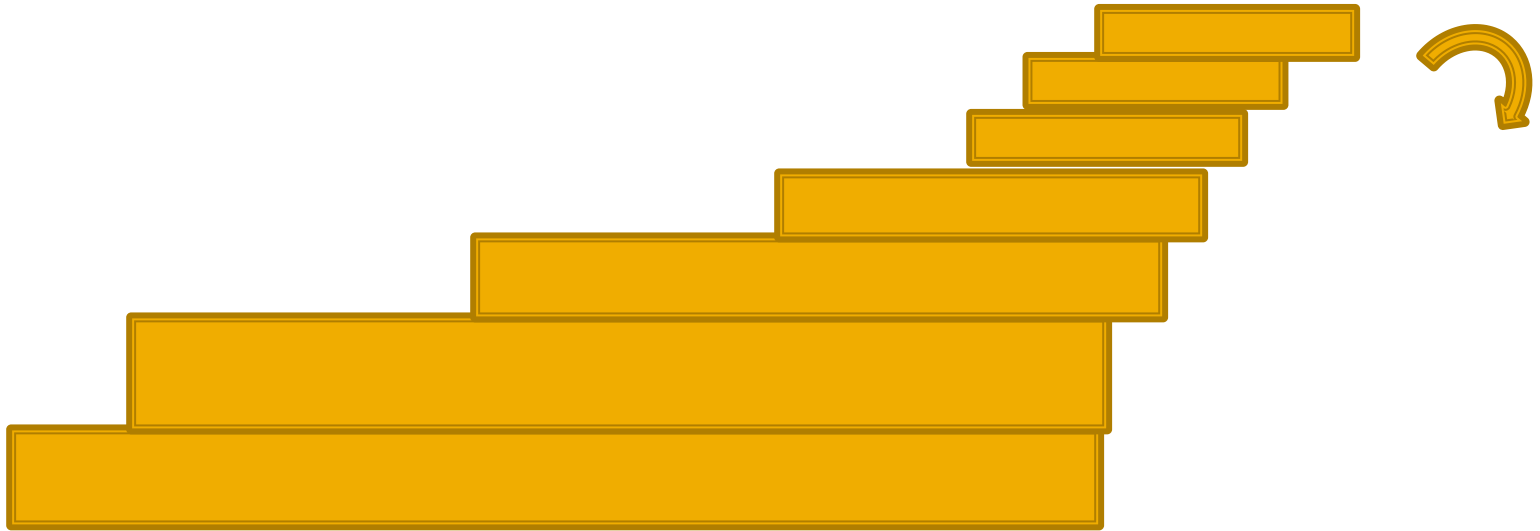
The Journey Down in Humility

- How do we journey down in humility in order to grow up stronger in Christ?
- By acknowledging our spiritual poverty
- By awakening to the moral corruption of this world
- By accepting God's control over our lives
- By aspiring after the things of God

1. Acknowledging our Spiritual Poverty, Matthew 5:3

- “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
- Finding the bottom of our souls.
- “But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person.” (Matthew 15:18-20)

Legalism's Toppling Tower



Kingdom of heaven

- God's kingdom is gained by His grace, received through our repentance and faith.
- The more we realize our unworthiness, the more we believe in Christ's worthiness, and the more we mature in the Christian faith.
- "See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant" (Jer. 1:10).

2. Awakening to this World's Corruption, Matthew 5:4

- **“Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.”**
- **A trait of immaturity is to not know how much we actually cost.**
- **How far has this world fallen? How sinful am I?**
- **How far will God go to save us?**
- **“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)**

Taking your faith seriously

- Mourning leads to receiving the comfort of God.
- “I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death” (2 Cor. 7:9-10).

3. Accepting God's Control over our Lives, Matthew 5:5

- **“Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.”**
- **Meekness is the opposite of envy, resentment, anger, and vengeance.**
- **Meekness is contented surrender to God's control, like a horse surrenders to its rider.**
- **“Blessed is the man who is always angry at the right time, and never angry at the wrong time.”**

What we get for being meek

- Everything – only the meek really enjoy life.
- “Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart” (Psa. 37:3-4).
- John answered, “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven.” (John 3:27)

4. **Aspire for the Things of God, Matthew 5:6**

- **“Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled.”**
- **Hunger and thirst are strong desires.**
- **A desire for all of God – accusative case is used.**
- **God fulfills this desire: “The eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him” (2 Chron. 16:9).**