

The Sermon on the Mount
(Lesson 1)

Introduction:

1. We are taught in Ephesians 5:17 to understand "*what the will of the Lord is.*"
2. To help us understand the Lord's will we are studying His sermon in Matthew 5-7.

Discussion:

I. INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

- A. According to Matthew 5:1, multitudes of people were gathered around Jesus.
 1. Prior to this sermon He had already been teaching and preaching (4:23a).
 2. Jesus had also healed many people (4:23b-24).
 3. As a result of His teaching and healing, multitudes followed the Lord (4:25).
- B. When Jesus saw the multitudes, He "*went up into a mountain*" [an elevated place].
 1. After going up into this mountain, He sat down [the common teaching position of that time].
 2. When Jesus was set His disciples came to Him, and He began to teach them.
- C. As a result of studying this sermon, I hope that we will:
 1. have a better understanding of the Lord's will
 2. do our best to continue in His Word and put His teachings into practice.

II. JESUS BEGAN HIS SERMON BY GIVING THE BEATITUDES

- A. In the Beatitudes Jesus showed how people in 8 different categories will be "*blessed.*"
 1. We normally think of a person being blessed when he receives something.
 2. The blessings that Jesus talked about are spiritual blessings that come from God: being a part of the kingdom of heaven, being comforted, inheriting the earth, being filled with righteousness, obtaining mercy, seeing God, and being called the children of God.
- B. In order to enjoy these blessings we must meet the Lord's requirements in the Beatitudes.
- C. In our lesson we are examining the first 3 Beatitudes that are closely related.

III. (vs.3) "*BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT*"

- A. The "*poor in spirit*" are those who:
 1. are aware of their spiritual needs
 2. recognize their spiritual condition and depend upon God for salvation.
- B. The Bible has much to say about this quality.
 1. (Luke 18:9-14) Jesus illustrated what it means to be poor in spirit.
 2. (Psalm 51:17) God is pleased with those who are poor in spirit.
- C. The poor in spirit will enjoy a great blessing -- "*theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*"
 1. To be members of the Lord's kingdom we must be "poor in spirit."
 2. We must realize that on our own we are sinners and depend upon God for salvation.

IV. (vs.4) "*BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN*"

- A. Those who mourn are people whose hearts are filled with sorrow.
 1. However, Jesus was talking about a spiritual type of mourning.
 2. When a person who is poor in spirit commits sin his heart is filled with sorrow because he realizes he has transgressed God's will, and he mourns.
- B. An example of one who mourned is Peter (Matthew 26:75b).
- C. Sin ought to cause us to mourn [our sins as well as the sins of others].
- D. Those who mourn will enjoy a great blessing -- "*they shall be comforted.*"
 1. When we mourn over our sins we are led to seek God's forgiveness.
 2. When we receive His forgiveness we are able to enjoy great comfort.

V. (vs.5) "*BLESSED ARE THE MEEK*"

- A. The meek are those who possess a mild and gentle spirit.
 1. One who is meek does not assert himself or have to have his own way.
 2. Meekness is a quality that Christians must develop (Galatians 5:23).
- B. The meek will enjoy a great blessing -- "*they shall inherit the earth.*"
 1. The proud and the haughty want to take things and get them by their own power.
 2. The meek will "*inherit*" a great blessing from God (Psalm 22:26).