

## Sermon Series: Spurred on to Holiness (and Power) by Immersing Ourselves into the Life of Christ Through the Eyes of the Apostles – A Harmony of All Four Gospels

Sermon Title: Christians, Despised by the World, but Super-Blessed by the Father, A Study of the Beatitudes Part Three. From Matthew 5:3-9

October 14, 2018

Theme verse: Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. (ESV)

Introduction: Sermon on the Mount is the Law 2.0. It is Jesus' explanation of the OT law as lived under the power of the Spirit in the New Covenant. It is wildly opposite the world's standards if the world has any left. It is even opposite many contemporary Christian standards of today. Watered-down Christianity is epidemic in our churches. Fornication is no longer a sin in most churches. Lying is O.K. as long as it doesn't hurt anyone too seriously. Adultery is no longer a matter of church discipline. Ignoring the poor among us or ignoring the plight of persecuted Christians around the world is standard in our materialistic form of Christianity today. Loving our enemies? Not really- we are allowed to remain bitter with them and not forgive them and not bless them with kindness. At Cornerstone we will not accept anything less in our personal Christian standards other than Jesus' 2.0 Law of grace.

Context

Exegesis (no need)

Main point: Christians need to know that we are blessed beyond belief because we have a greater reward than the world, even though we may go hungry, be scorned, and be seriously hurt in this life. Non-Christians need to know that their future fate is beyond horrible if they choose to value this life and its values over God's values.

Condition and Reward

“Blessed are they who mourn (Pentheo). For they shall be comforted.”

Who are those who mourn?

1. They are those who are oppressed because of their faith and their stands for Jesus. Solomon hints at this when he says: Ecclesiastes 4:1 [1] Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no

one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them. (ESV)

What is Their Reward?

They shall be comforted. How?

- Someday the Tables will be turned.
  - Daniel 7:18 [18] But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.' (ESV)
  - Revelation 5:9–10 [9] And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, [10] and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." (ESV)

Who are those who mourn?

2. They are those like Jeremiah who are brokenhearted over the sinful condition of their country.

- Jeremiah 9:1–2 [1] Oh that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people! [2] Oh that I had in the desert a travelers' lodging place, that I might leave my people and go away from them! For they are all adulterers, a company of treacherous men. (ESV)
  - 1,000 witches are gathering in Brooklyn to place a hex, (spell, or curse) on Brett Kavanaugh. Do you grieve for the sinful state of our nation and the numbers of people who have abandoned the ways of God?

What is Their Reward?

They shall be comforted. How?

- They are comforted when they see their nation make steps toward God instead of away from God.
  - Jeremiah 12:14–17 [14] Thus says the LORD concerning all my evil neighbors who touch the heritage that I have given my people Israel to inherit: "Behold, I will pluck them up from their land, and I will pluck up the house of Judah from among them. [15] And after I have plucked them up, I will again have compassion on them, and I will bring them again each to his heritage and each to his land. [16] And it shall come to pass, if they will diligently learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name, 'As the LORD lives,' even as they taught my people to swear by Baal, then they shall be built up in the midst of my people. [17] But if any nation will not listen, then I will utterly pluck it up and destroy it, declares the LORD." (ESV)

Who are those who mourn?

3. They are those like Paul who cry over the knowledge that many within the Christian community will be led astray by false teachers.
  - Acts 20:29–31 [29] I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; [30] and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. [31] Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. (ESV)

What is Their Reward?

For they shall be comforted

- They will be comforted by the fact that no false teacher is able to lead astray any whom God has chosen as his own.
  - Romans 8:37–39 [37] No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [38] For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV) and Philippians 1:6 [6] And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (ESV)

Who are those who mourn?

4. They are those like Paul who get tearful when he thinks about the eternal punishment of those who choose to be the enemies of Christ.
  - Philippians 3:18–19 [18] For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. [19] Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. (ESV)

What is Their Reward?

For they shall be comforted

- They will be comforted knowing that God's justice towards the enemies of Christ is perfectly just. Someday God will show us exactly why individuals are sentenced more harshly in hell than others.
  - Revelation 20:11–12 [11] Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. [12] And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had

done. (ESV) Perhaps we will see the thousands of times the Holy Spirit came calling on a sinner only to have that invitation rebuked again and again and we will see that each rebuke is an infinitely evil sin worthy of an infinite punishment.

- But there seems to be a contradiction with this concept for on the one hand,
  - Ezekiel 18:32 says [32] For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.” (ESV) but,
  - Deuteronomy 28:63 [63] And as the LORD took delight in doing you good and multiplying you, so the LORD will take delight in bringing ruin upon you and destroying you. And you shall be plucked off the land that you are entering to take possession of it. (ESV)
  - How can these be reconciled? God gets no sinful delight from a “gotcha” moment where He relishes the sight of someone squirming in pain because they spurned his goodness, but
  - He is pleased when His justice is satisfied – just as Romans [23] says, “For the wages of sin is death,

#### Application

1. When was the last time you shed a tear for the condition of our nation or the welfare of those being led astray by false teachers or for the judgment of enemies of Christ?