

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 Four. From Matthew 5:3-9

October 21, 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: Last week's message asked when was the last time you cried or mourned? If you can't remember or that part of you is in need of waking up, go see the Gosnell movie.

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.

“Blessed are the meek (praus). For they shall inherit the earth.”

Psalm 37:[11] But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace. (ESV)

Today, meek equals weak. Today meek = spineless. Totally false definition of praus.

What does praus really mean?

1. According to Aristotle it meant the perfect balance between excessive anger and no anger at all.
 - Blessed are those get angry for the right reasons and at the right time for they shall inherit the earth.
2. It also meant someone who accepted another person's control over them. Like a horse with a bridle. In horse racing, the winner is called the “meekest horse” because it let the jockey tell him what to do when to maximize his speed.
 - Psalm 25:[9] He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. (ESV)

- Blessed are those who know they are under authority and can control their power and anger and use it at the right time for the right reasons for they shall inherit the earth.
3. It also meant perfect humility.
- Blessed are those who know they are under authority and can control their anger for uses that are godly meaning not for selfish reasons for they shall inherit the earth.

Jesus was the perfect example: Matthew 11:28–30 [28] Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (ESV)

- 2 Corinthians 10:[1] I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!— (ESV)
- Matthew 26:53 [53] Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? (60,000 angels) (ESV)
- Isaiah 50:5–7 [5] The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. [6] I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. [7] But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. (ESV)

What is the opposite of praus today?

- Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg? Maybe. But they can’t compete with 1) Cornelius Vanderbilt (known as an unmannered brute, a bully, combative, corrupt). 2) Henry Frick (the second half of Carnegie Steel who thought nothing of hiring a police force to put down a strike and killing 10 workers, 3) The Rockefellers, 4) the Rothschilds and 5) George Soros– all evil and powerful men who will stop at nothing to gain power and wealth. Do these men think they own the world? You bet they do.
- Leo Durocher said it best “Nice guys finish last” when talking about the 1946 Yankees (actually he said nice guys finish in 7th place)

Why is the promise of inheriting the earth a reward? And what does it mean to inherit the earth (actually land)?

1. It has everything to do with the land mentioned in Psalm 37.
 - The wicked were usurpers (just as Satan is) and will someday be kicked off the land they are squatting in.
 - Notice the emphasis on peace in vs. 11

2. And it has everything to do with Psalm 2.
3. It has everything to do with Isaiah 61:1-7
4. For Israel this promise means that they will be living in their own land under the direct rule of the Apostles Matthew 19:28 and under David who will rule under Jesus. Isaiah 11:1-12 and Jeremiah 30:9; Ezekiel 37:24; Hosea 3:5.
 - Matthew was written to Jewish Christians who were wondering how they fit after having left the synagogue and how the promises of the OT applied to them. It was a tract for Jews. This is how every person hearing the Sermon on the Mount would have received this message.
 - In my humble opinion Messianic Jews will live in the land of Israel (their inheritance) and shepherd (in their glorified bodies) Israelites (who will be in their physical yet immortal bodies) who have been retrieved from the four corners of the earth to live in Israel and repopulate and rebuild the land according to the prophecies of Isaiah.
 - They will host other physical descendants who happen to be Gentile who will travel to Jerusalem to meet the King in person.
 - Matthew 8:[11] I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, (ESV)
5. For Gentile believers this means that we will turn to other Scriptures to see where and how we fit in such as:
 - Luke 19:11–19 [11] As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. [12] He said therefore, “A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. [13] Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Engage in business until I come.’ [14] But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’ [15] When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. [16] The first came before him, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.’ [17] And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.’ [18] And the second came, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made five minas.’ [19] And he said to him, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’ (ESV)
 - And 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)

- And, Revelation 20:[4] Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (ESV)
- And, Revelation 20:[6] Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years. (ESV)
- And Revelation 22:[5] And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. (ESV)

Application

1. Your future ministry of shepherding thousands of people is directly tied to your obedience in making disciples today. Why should God entrust you with future souls if you haven't made disciples today?

The concept of “the land” being the land of Israel primarily and this beatitude being directed primarily, if not solely, to the Jews is the topic of an excellent paper written by Nelson S. Hsieh, a Ph.D. candidate at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The paper can be found and accessed in the footnote below.¹

¹ MATTHEW 5:5 AND THE OLD TESTAMENT LAND PROMISES: AN INHERITANCE OF THE EARTH OR THE LAND OF ISRAEL? Nelson S. Hsieh Ph.D. Candidate The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at <https://www.tms.edu/m/TMS-Spring2017-Article-03.pdf>