

DEEP IN SCRIPTURE

Verses & Notes May 17, 2006

The Beatitudes III

Matthew 5:1-12

- 1: Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain,
and when he sat down his disciples came to him.
- 2: And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:
- 3: "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4: Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.
- 5: Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.
- 6: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.
- 7: Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.
- 8: Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.
- 9: Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.
- 10: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11: Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
- 12: Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,
for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Discussion Notes:

Intro:

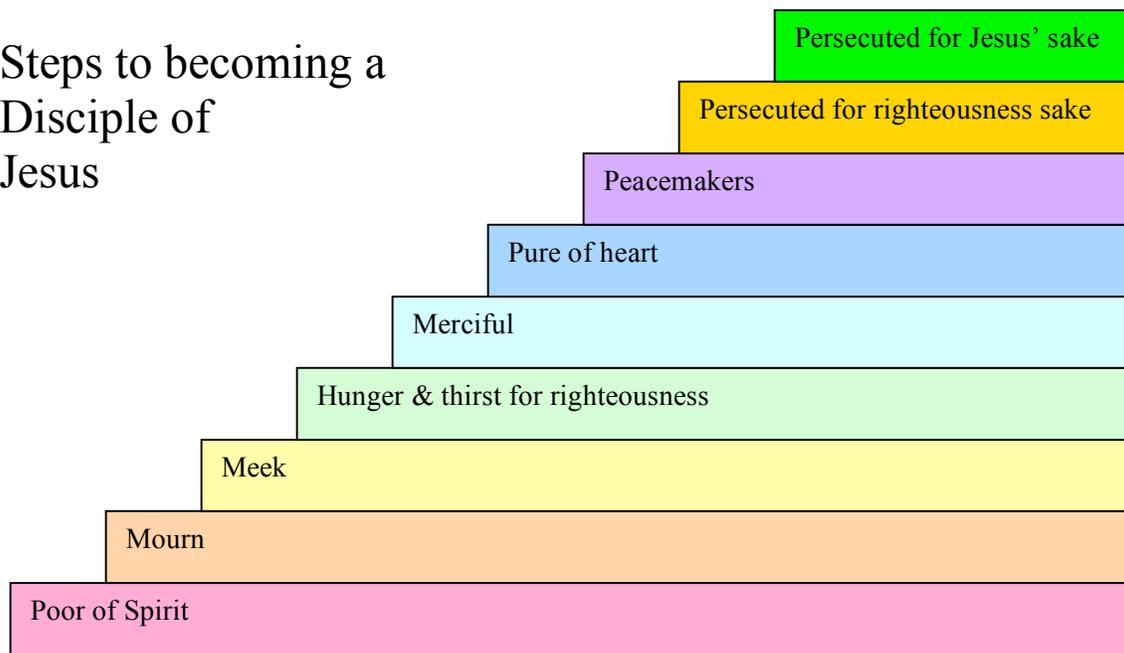
A: Three Criteria for interpreting Scripture (CCC, 111-114):

- 1: Be especially attentive 'to the content and unity of the whole Scripture;'"
- 2: Read the Scripture within 'the living Tradition of the whole Church;'"
- 3: Be attentive to the analogy of faith

B: Context:

- 1: Jesus called first disciples;
- 2: Jesus' entire ministry was about calling disciples;
- 3: Jesus' last words: "Go and make disciples;'"
- 4: On the mount, speaking to disciples, beckoning others to come & join.
- 5: Basic purpose of Beatitudes: Call to Discipleship.

Steps to becoming a Disciple of Jesus



- Step 1: Detachment from the world; choosing attachment to Jesus Christ.
 —————> Leads to crisis/choice: “mourn” loss of attachments & realization of sinfulness.
 —————> Reward: theirs is the kingdom of heaven (membership in the Family).
- Step 2: Detachment from sin; choosing obedience to Jesus Christ.
 —————> Leads to crisis/choice: “pride”
 —————> Reward: comfort (inner affirmation).
- Step 3: Detachment from self: choosing humility, to be like Jesus.
 —————> Leads to crisis/choice: hunger & thirst for attention!
 —————> Reward: shall inherit the earth (God will provide all needs).
- Step 4: Desire to be righteous before God the Father
 —————> Leads to crisis/choice: one must love and forgive.
 —————> Reward: will be satisfied (will be changed by grace).
- Step 5: Obedience to righteousness: love and forgive.
 —————> Leads to crisis/choice: bitterness for justice
 —————> Reward: shall obtain mercy (forgiven as we forgive)
- Step 6: Purification of the heart: let go of bitterness.
 —————> Leads to crisis/choice: isolation
 —————> Reward: shall see God (contemplation).
- Step 7: Being Christ in the world.
 —————> Leads to crisis/choice: personal rejection, persecution for being “holy”
 —————> Reward: shall be called sons of God (those who know will see).
- Step 8: Acceptance / offering up of this persecution
 —————> Leads to crisis/choice: rejection of the entire process & discipleship.
 —————> Reward: theirs is the kingdom of God (this is what membership entails in this world)
- Step 9: Acceptance / offering up of this persecution
 —————> Leads to crisis/choice: loneliness.
 —————> Reward: great in heaven (eternity; union with Christ).