

Series: Evidences and Gifts of God's Favor part 4

Matthew 5:1-12 "The Beatitudes"

3/6/11

Matthew 5:1 And when He saw the multitudes, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

² And opening His mouth He *began* to teach 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 gentle, 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 receive mercy.

6. An Evidence of God's Favor: purity of heart

Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

God Grows us in purity of heart as we practice singleness of:

focus

James 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

⁴ You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

...⁷ Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

thinking

Colossians 3:1 If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

motive

Matthew 6:1 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

² "When therefore you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

³ "But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing

⁴ that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

A Gift of God's Favor: we'll see God

Revelation 22:4 and they shall see His face...

7. An Evidence of God's Favor: peace making

Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

God Grows us in peace making as we:

a. love God even if it causes conflicts

Matthew 5:10 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when *men* cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me.

¹² "Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

b. be fast to apologize, forgive and reconcile

Matthew 5:23 "If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,

²⁴ leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

c. befriend the weak and put away judgmentalism

Romans 14:1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, *but* not for *the purpose of* passing judgment on his opinions.

² One man has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables *only*.

³ Let not him who eats regard with contempt him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats, for God has accepted him.

d. help reconcile others who need help

Matthew 18:15 "And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

¹⁶ "But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed.

e. love one another enough to correct that which harms peace

Galatians 2:11. But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

¹² For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he *began* to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision.

f. live the mission

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

¹⁸ Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

A Gift of God's Favor: we bear His name

8. An Evidence of God's Favor: persecution

Matthew 5:10 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when *men* cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me.

¹² "Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

God Grows us in joy during persecution as we:

a. love God

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ Just as it is written, "For Thy sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

b. love one another

Philippians 1:14 and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.

¹⁵ Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will;

¹⁶ the latter *do it* out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel;

c. love the lost

Luke 6:26 "Woe *to you* when all men speak well of you, for in the same way their fathers used to treat the false prophets.

²⁷ "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

d. love heaven

Hebrews 10:34 For you showed sympathy to the prisoners, and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and an abiding one.

e. love our forefathers (Hebrews 11)

A Gift of God's Favor: Citizenship in God's kingdom

Our resulting influence:

Matthew 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty *again*? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵ "Nor do *men* light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house.

¹⁶ "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

All Scripture is from the NASV