

The Parable of Two Foundations – Session Six

This parable concludes the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew Chapters 5-7

In three brief chapters in Matthew's gospel, Jesus presents the most concise overview of what it takes to follow HIM. It is clearly the standard for Christian living and discipleship. *Matthew 5–7* contains some of the most profound and penetrating passages in the entire Bible.

In the Parable of the Two Foundations Jesus says, “Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and ACTS UPON THEM may be compared to a wise man...” So it would be a worthwhile exercise to closely review the words the spoke.

Disciples Embrace the Beatitudes

The beatitudes are a progression from spiritual awakening to walking in maturity. Every disciple of Christ will eventually embrace the beatitudes as part of the journey.

- We are first awakened to our **spiritual poverty** toward God.
- This leads us to **mourning** and lamenting our wretched state as we are comforted.
- From here we embrace **meekness** – an attitude of servanthood for redemptive purposes.
- Our heart now can be enlarged to receive more of God through **hungering for righteousness**.
- We also experience the mercy of God in our lives and we become more **merciful**.
- As we mature, our **hearts** and motivations become **pure** and begin to see God anew.
- We become **peacemakers** reconciling ourselves to one another and to God.

The last three Beatitudes are the fruit of the first six, in a sense they are progressive. Poverty of spirit leads to repentance (mourning), which leads to meekness (power restrained for greater good), which leads to hungering for God (maturity), which leads to receiving and giving mercy which leads to purity in our hearts (motivation). All of this leads to a willingness to embrace the cross and suffer for Christ.

- We willingly count it a blessing to be **persecuted**.
- We are blessed when **reviled** and men utter evil against us.
- We will embrace the indignity of being **falsely accused**.

Conclusion

The Beatitudes begin with an awakening of our spiritual poverty, and end with a resolve to stand under pressure and embrace persecution for the cause of Christ. The progressive natures of these teachings outline the path to Christian maturity. They actually are prerequisites for the rest of the Sermon on the Mount.

Without such an awakening, the rest of the Sermon on the Mount is perceived as “hard” sayings and they fall mostly on deaf ears.

So now let us look at the rest of what Jesus had to say:

- Salt and Light
- Murder and Adultery of the Heart
- Reconcile before you make your offering
- Making vows
- Eye for an eye redefined – turn cheek, give, love enemies
- Be perfect
- Alms, Prayer and Fasting defined – Praises of man worthless
- The Lord's Prayer
- Forgiveness
- True Treasure – cannot serve two masters
- Anxiety – Seek first the Kingdom
- Judge Not Least You be Judged
- Ask, Seek, Knock
- The Golden Rule
- The Narrow Gate
- False Prophets – known by their fruits
- Not everyone enters
- The House on the Rock and the House on the Sand

Jesus wanted us to know this information so we could make radical changes in our lives. He was not giving us information to be understood, but truth that is to be applied.

If you apply these fundamental truths in your life you will be building your house upon a solid rock that can withstand the storms of life. If you ignore what Jesus has taught us here the foundation of your life will be built on sand; which under stress will crumble.