



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

The Be Attitudes

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In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Capernaum became Jesus' unofficial ministry headquarters. As was His custom, Jesus was in the synagogue on the Sabbath, reading scripture and teaching. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities forgiving sin and physically healing people of demons and disease. Jesus began to challenge rituals and shared the Kingdom of God. On this occasion, Luke continues to share the life, person and power of Christ Jesus.

*“And turning His gaze toward His disciples, He began to say, **“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man. Be glad in that day and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets”** (Luke 6:20-23 NASB)*

Jesus teaches His disciples. Luke previously records that Jesus had just chose 12 common men as His apostles. None of the men were from the religious establishment of that day. None chosen were scribes, Pharisees, Rabbis, or priests. Jesus moves down the mountain and teaches to His disciples on a level plain, some calling it The Sermon on the Plain, however most calling it The Sermon on the Mount and The Beatitudes. While there were 3 groups of people in the crowd; the 12 apostles, the large crowd of disciples and throngs of other curious people, some have described this teaching as the apostle's ordination sermon to the disciples present.

Be Attitudes. Jesus describes 4 potential attitudes and conditions of His followers and the blessings to be received. Luke records that Jesus is talking to His disciples, and tells them that His followers are 'blessed', possessing the favor of God, and uses a personal pronoun "you".

A similar message is shared in Matthew 5:1-12, and Matthew uses the terms "are the" and "are those" when describing the blessed. Comparing the two passages reveals a greater spiritual need rather than a physical or economic problem.

“Blessed are you who are poor...” While scripture, in other passages, supports that the poor economically may be more receptive to become a follower of Jesus, this poor is an understanding and recognition of spiritual impoverishment, a need and acceptance of Christ. Those disciples will be spiritually rich and rewarded with the Kingdom of God, Heaven.

“Blessed are you who are hungry...” Similarly the 'hunger' (*and thirst*) Mt 5:6) refer to disciples who understand their need and are seeking the righteousness of God to satisfy that spiritual hunger and thirst for righteousness. They shall be spiritually satisfied.

“Blessed are you who weep...” Understanding that this world will have pain, sorrow, and sadness, but God's blessing is spiritual and eternal joy and peace to His followers.

“Blessed are you when men hate you for the sake of the Son of Man” While a disciple or follower is not seeking persecution, when persecution is received by a disciple of Christ solely for following Jesus, that persecution carries with it a blessing of God.

While a disciple of Jesus likely will have short term challenges in this world, God provides eternal blessings to those that seek and follow Him.

For Your Consideration:

- Have you recognized your spiritual impoverishment?
- Have you recognized your spiritual hunger and have you sought the righteousness of God to satisfy that hunger?
- Have you been persecuted for His sake?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44