

YOU HAVE HEARD THAT IT WAS SAID: ELEVATING RIGHTEOUSNESS

Sunday message from July 31, 2022

~ Notes & Reflections ~

[Matthew 5.1-12](#)

- **“You have heard that it was said, but I say to you...”**
 - ❖ Jesus masterfully challenges all conventional wisdom—of the world and of religion—and gets to the root of the human heart. This is why we often experience comfort and conviction at the same time when we read this portion of Scripture, which only the Holy Spirit can do.
 - ❖ Take a moment to sit before God, asking him to prepare your heart for what comfort and conviction may arise during this series. What might it look like to Jesus’ words to get at the root of your heart?
- **The Beatitudes are a summary of the whole Sermon on the Mount.**
 - ❖ They lead us toward a flourishing life. They portray God’s desired character for those who follow Jesus.
 - ❖ Jesus began by sitting down. He is never in a hurry. Imagine yourself on that hillside, watching and listening. What does Jesus’ posture invite you into?
- **Blessed are the poor in spirit (you who are poor), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
 - ❖ The kingdom of God is not built with money.
 - ❖ What is your relationship with money? What role does money and the pursuit of “more” play in your life?
 - ❖ Detach yourself from the controlling pursuit of more. You can’t pay for a reservation at Jesus’ table.
- **Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.**
 - ❖ The way to happiness is not avoiding pain, but through pain because it opens our hearts for Jesus to heal.
- **Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.**
 - ❖ Conventional wisdom says that drive and power will get the prize, but meekness is counter-cultural.
- **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**
 - ❖ Righteousness is living into God’s created design for us.
 - ❖ What are you chasing after to fill you? What is the cheap substitute you are craving?
- **Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.**
 - ❖ You have already been shown mercy. How does that impact how you interact with others?
- **Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.**
 - ❖ We are all impacted by sin and have mixed motives. A pure heart is impossible.
- **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.**
 - ❖ Not keeping the peace by avoiding truth, but making peace with the truth.
- **Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
 - ❖ We should expect persecution as we live the way of Jesus.
- Which of these “blessed” statements bring comfort? Which bring conviction? Take some time to talk to God about what bubbles up as you read/hear and reflect on these statements.
- What might God be inviting you into as a response to this message/reflection on the Beatitudes?
- **In all of this, Jesus is elevating the bar. We can’t. But, he has already.**
 - ❖ Jesus fulfills all of these on our behalf, so now we can rest in him and in his righteousness. How does that shift your understanding and process of following?