

February 1, 2013

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Truths to Experience Christ Likeness Matt. 5 1-12

Lord, help us today as we get into your word to help me. Lord, I prepared this lesson, but I trust that your spirit may work through it. Help people get the most out of it, learn how to apply it, and walk with the Lord. Today, Lord, we're studying the characteristics of what it means to be Christ-like, as Jesus taught. And I pray that we might see this. Help us to really get into this particular scripture, and we thank you for it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

You know I'd like you to hear and turn in your Bibles when you're listening to this, though, just listen to it. This is a reading by Max McLean, and he does a very good job. So listen to the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12. Matthew 5.

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 receive 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 others 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 they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Listen to Matthew 5, 6, and 7. It's about 15 minutes long, and I think you'll be challenged to listen to it. When we listen, our minds can wander. You probably notice that when I'm speaking, my mind goes elsewhere as well. It's hard to stay on track. But listen to it, imagine yourself on that hill in Galilee and listening to it. Think of yourself on the west side of Galilee on a gentle slope leading down to the lake, and you're listening to Jesus speak this. Of course, he said it in Aramaic. I believe somewhere you can probably listen to this in Aramaic, but I don't know if you would understand it.

I believe that the disciples actually took time to memorize these particular lines. And apparently, Matthew did so well that he recorded the words. He was led by the Spirit to give us this particular sermon. It's a big sermon that is only 15 minutes.

Now, there are two ways to look at this sermon or two directions that it offers. There's some truth in both directions. To exclude one of these is an error. If you exclude one or the other of these, you're not understanding what's being said here. This is Jesus, the Logos, revealing God to us. He is God in the flesh, and he is giving His truth that's going to be in operation in the kingdom. Now, that's absolutely true. In the Millennium, these are the truths that are going to characterize the Millennium. But these truths of the kingdom in the Millennium are going to be taught in the rest of the New Testament somewhere. And when you look at it, you're going to see these things, and they're not just here in Matthew 5, but they're in the other books. If you look back in the Old Testament, you will find them as well.

Now, to help you with this, I'd like you to look at some scriptures for homework and application after this sermon. Now you can rewind this recording and write these down, or you can write them down now if you can. These are all talking about the fruit of the Spirit. Paul lists the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The main idea of the fruit of the Spirit is love. How is love defined? Joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Now, as you're looking at these passages, write down also these words, or find these words in Matthew chapter 5, okay, 3 to 12. Poor in spirit, mourners, meek, hunger and thirst for righteousness, merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, persecuted for righteousness' sake, reviled for my sake, rejoice, a real fruit of the Spirit.

We see things like long-suffering in the Beatitudes, related to persecution and hanging in there under trial. We see gentleness and self-control. That's the idea of meekness. We see rejoice, okay, and joy, definitely fruit of the Spirit. All right. And you know, the other things related to love are seen in every one of the Beatitudes, some aspect of it. This is what Christ is like.

Now, here are the other scriptures I'd like you to look at: Romans 5:1-5 and Colossians 3:12-17. Romans 12:9-21, Philippians 2:1-8. Here is the idea: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." These are all attitudes or fruits of the Spirit that reflect what Christ is like. And being like Christ is one of the major goals of a Christian. We're working on it. But one day, 1 John 3 tells us, "We are going to be like Christ." We're still going to be us, but we won't have the sin nature, and we'll be like Christ in how we reflect our actions and attitudes toward other people. We're going to be like Him. You can find that in 1 John 3:1-3. Now, also look at Ephesians 4:1-6, and then at verse 32. And they will

describe for you, you know, how to walk worthy in the calling, which you've been called, how to be Christ-like. And you'll see all kinds of characteristics walking in the Spirit and in the fruit of the Spirit. And the Beatitudes are part of that.

Jesus gives it here, and the Apostles will take it and build on it in the rest of the New Testament. So, because this is Jesus speaking, and He's speaking truths about what He is like, you're going to be able to see that in the Old Testament. You're going to be able to see that in the New Testament. It goes backwards and forwards. This application goes both ways, in the kingdom and for us today. And the real nitty-gritty of it is, we can see it worked out, you know, in the entire Scriptures.

There are nine times the word "blessed" is given. Okay, the word "blessed" is given. "Μακάριοι" - Makarioi "blessed." All right, and there are, okay, 13 times you will see "for" ὅτι - Hoti in this passage. I will tell you that this has been a very easy passage for me to learn Greek because we have at least two words in every one of them, and actually, you know, with the basic vocabulary of Greek, most of this I get. A few words I have to learn, but it was easy to get into because it's repeated over and over. "Blessed are, blessed are," you know, so that's repeated, you know, nine times. "Hoti," which is a strong "for," is repeated 11 times. Then they use two other words for "for" that you see in verses 10-12. But anyway, those are words that are repeated here, and it's good to observe them. So, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God," or "kingdom of heaven." I shouldn't have said "God" there; it's "kingdom of heaven." I'm looking at the Greek word here, "οὐρανῶν," - ouranōn "heaven."

"The poor in spirit" means you need God. You need Him to be saved. You need Him to get you to heaven. You need Him to work in your life. You need Him to walk in the Spirit and let His Spirit work in your life, so that these characteristics are seen in practice. Without Him, none of this is possible. The wages of sin are death, for all who sin come short of the glory of God. These things the Spirit does in our lives, we don't do. We're saved by grace, but we walk in the works that God has created for us, that He's going to work through our lives. We're absolutely dependent on the Lord.

Have you ever noticed how fragile you can really be? I know, one time we were strong, and we were this, and we were that, but it doesn't take long to realize, "Oh man, we're kind of fragile." And there are all kinds of things that can break us down. Why do we need the Lord? We need to exhibit poverty in the Spirit. And if you are poor in the Spirit and you become like a little child, then you can be born into the kingdom. You know, and it's not something that we do, it's something that He does. We were dead in our trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2), and He made us alive. He made us alive when He saved us. We

didn't even know that, but all of a sudden, spiritually, we're now talking with God. We're now alive with God. Everything has changed. We've become a child of the King.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Mourning speaks of some type of loss, doesn't it? There are physical losses. I used to be able to run so fast. I can't do that anymore. I've lost it. My balance, I've lost a lot of it lately, working on it to get some of it back. But we have losses, and we see them more clearly as we get older. Those are physical losses. Sometimes we get injured and lose something. I was with a group of people yesterday, and many of us in the room have lost our hearing. It's hilarious. What? What? What? We lost it. Thank God for hearing aids. There are all kinds of losses, physically.

There are losses in relationships. For whatever reason, we had relationships that we no longer have. We've lost them. There might be regret there. There are other relationships where not only did we lose them, but they died, and now we're separated from them. There are times when I can actually hear my father's voice inside my head. Not that I'm hearing voices, but the memory of that voice is in my head. Just certain phrases that he said that come back to me from time to time. They're like auditory files that are in our brain, and I can imagine his voice. But he and I are separated now because of death. I look forward to seeing him again in heaven, and that's just the plain of it. There's a mourning that takes place when you lose somebody that you love. It could be parents, grandparents, a dog, or that some of you might lose a cat. But you know, you have a pet, and there's a loss, and it's a real loss, and you mourn.

Sometimes you mourn over spiritual loss. If you really want to study from the Bible how to comfort other people, get into 2 Corinthians. Great study on how to comfort anyone in counseling. A therapist should study 2 Corinthians. There are too many therapists with a shallow look at the Bible. From a Christian point of view, they need to study Second Corinthians, because that book interweaves how to comfort others. And comforting is a great ministry. But you know, when we've had a loss, whatever it is, we can be comforted.

I know people who have lost things because they've had a stroke, and they're having a hard time recovering from that stroke. They lost. In the process of their struggle, God can comfort them. They can walk with God, even in the midst of a stroke, and He can comfort them.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." These are going to be the rulers in the kingdom. They are gentle, and they have self-control. One of the lessons I learned in teaching was not get upset when kids misbehave. I've learned that it's much better to take the emotion out of it and put the responsibility on the kid, and serve it, I'll say cold, but you know, you serve it without emotion, and it really helps. If you are prone to getting angry in class, you will become exhausted. It is much better to keep self-control. But the point

is, you can't get upset with them every time this happens. Man, you'll have a heart attack. It's much better to be under self-control. Now here, self-control comes with gentleness. Gentleness. This is part of the fruit of the Spirit, and the people who are ruling in the kingdom, they're going to be gentle and have self-control. Not many political leaders are gentle or self-controlled. Look at the newspapers for that one. There are so many examples of people who don't have it. But here, in this kingdom, the disciples learned it. They taught it in the rest of the New Testament, how to be gentle in your ministry, how to be under control, you know, not let anger rule, that kind of thing. And those are the guys that are actually going to be the leaders in the kingdom.

Meekness is not weakness. All of these attitudes are in the active voice. This is a person who is under control, gentle yet energetic, able to carry on the ministry through the problems. This is a parent who understands that helping their child become a better student or cleaning their room requires more than an outburst. No, the parents are in control and have the energy to ensure a successful outcome.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled, they shall be satisfied." In the Old Testament, God reveals Himself. It's the Word of God, but it reveals God. When we look at the New Testament, we see that God became flesh and revealed Himself. God may have words He has spoken that we can read, and He can communicate with us in a relationship with Him. We don't worship the Bible. We worship the God of the Bible, but we hunger and thirst for righteousness. In the Old Testament, we hunger and thirst for God. You know, we hunger and thirst in our relationship. The other day, I had to stop myself and say, "No, I need to just spend time with the Lord, me and Him." And, you know, I took time to do that.

Sometimes helping us is listening to Christian music; sometimes it's listening to or reading God's Word; sometimes it's our prayer time; but there are times when we are getting to know God. It's not all about obedience or application. It's also about getting to know the Lord, and that's what we're hungry and thirsting for. And when we do that, we're going to be satisfied. No matter what our spiritual condition is, we will be satisfied.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." We're going to learn, the Apostles are going to take that, because Jesus is going to teach again. And He says, "Learn to forgive as I have forgiven." And the Apostles are going to take that teaching and show us how to forgive. Forgive as Christ forgave. You know, if Christ forgave me, it's easy for me to forgive you. "Learn to be merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." You know, when you show mercy, God is going to show you mercy, and you're going to, you're going to, He's going to show even more mercy to you. You experience being shown mercy, and you will experience showing mercy to others.

Now, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Learning to be pure in heart, taking care of our relationships so that we're right with God, we're going to know the Lord. One day in heaven, the Bible tells us in Revelation, we'll see God face-to-face. He's going to wipe away our tears. There'll be no more sorrow. We're going to see him. And in eternity, which is something I can't even describe, because I only live so many years, we're going to have opportunity after opportunity to spend time with God personally. Amazing.

Now, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God." Have you ever read Cadfile? Or maybe you've seen the Cadfile series back in the day. And there were two characters on Cadfile. I actually would love to play the characters. They were jerks. And it doesn't matter what episode you watch, they will show up. And you kind of, you know, they're like Darth Vader. Once they show up, you start cringing because they're going to say something ugly. And they're going to be so self-righteous. And they're going to be so judgmental. They're just hateful little guys. And especially the little one of the two. He does such a good job. But anyway, they're always sowing problems between people. While a peacemaker is trying to get along with people as best they can. You know, not being a jerk is being Christlike. You know, we're trying to get along with people and build bridges. We're being Christlike. We're not being like a little idiot. You know. So I call this not being a jerk. Peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God. They'll have the peace of God. They'll have peace with God. You know, they're peacemakers.

And now blessed are those who are persecuted for righteous sake, and theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who revile and persecute you. I'm sorry, I read that wrong. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you, falsely for my sake. It's almost paradoxical. You know, later Jesus is going to say, "Love one another." Then he's going to take it further, "love as I love." Later in Matthew 5, he makes it harder by saying, "Love your enemies." What? Can't love my enemy? I want to punch him in the nose. But here people are being persecuted, and they're rejoicing in the fact that they were, I'll put it this way, good enough to be persecuted. And they were chosen by God to be persecuted, and they took joy, even in that, to have the fruit of the Spirit of joy. That's what it says in verse 12. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for greater is your reward in heaven. For so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Look at Paul and Silas in Acts 16:25. They are in a bad way in their praying and singing. Their circumstances were awful. Later, Paul, knowing that he is going to die for his faith, reveals how he faced that situation. Because we have hope in heaven and whatever the outcome of our temporary life is, there's

more to the story. Our experience in heaven is beyond what we go through today. Because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we two will be resurrected.

Now getting persecuted, and maybe even punished for your faith, is not fun. But these people, and we should, realize that we have a reward in heaven. This is a temporal life, and we may lose things, and in this life, we may never get them back. But in heaven we will. You see, we live so many years today, but in heaven we'll live forever.

Now I know there's been a lot of thinkers over time who said this is pie in the sky. This is an irrational belief to explain suffering. But the truth of it is, the Scriptures, no matter who we are, we live so many years. No guarantee on how long we live. But for many of us, we live 60, 70 years; some of us live into our 80s. A lot has to do with medicine today and stuff like that, but more and more people are living into their 90s. But I am very much aware that many people don't get there. They don't live into their 90s. So, however long we live, it's a brief time that we have to come to know God. We have to come and make peace with our Creator, get saved, trust the Lord, be born again and begin to walk with God. We have eternity where this will be an ongoing relationship without death, without sin, without trials and temptations.

We will have work in heaven, but it'll be easier. There are going to be things that we are doing in the will of God in heaven. Whether we live in a new heaven or a new earth, whatever our capacity is to be both in New Jerusalem, which is going to be on earth, or in the heavens doing something with God or being on earth, we're going to be doing these things eternally, and it's going to be different. And you just have to look in the Scriptures a few places to see how different it is. But that's going to go on for eternity. And we are going to be like Christ. So take it to heart.

What application do you think I'd like you to consider here? Take one of these attributes every day. One day, pouring spirit. The next day, mourning. The next day, meekness. The next day, I really hungered and thirsted for God. And here I mean, at some point in that day, spend time with God alone. Just you and Him alone. And get to know Him. Another day, reflect on hungering and thirsting for righteousness, etc. Keep going through the list. And as you do those days, find practical ways to be like Christ that day. Exercising that particular attitude. I hope it helps you.

Lord, we thank you for your Word, and we just pray that you'll bless it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Being Christ-like-2

Matt. 5:1-12	Found in the Bible	Fruit of the Spirit
Poor in Spirit	Romans, 3:9-12 Matt. 11:29; 21:5; 1 Pe. 3:4; Isa. 61:1; 66:2	Humble
Those that mourn	cf. Ezra 10:6; Ps. 51:4; 119:136; Ezek. 9:4; Dan. 9:19-20). Comfort (Isa. 40:1; 66:1-3, 13). John 16:20, 22 Isa 61:2; 3; 1 Cor. 1:7; 7:10; Rev 21:4; James 4:9, 10	Long suffering
The meek	cf. Ezra 10:6; Ps. 51:4; 119:136; Ezek. 9:4; Dan. 9:19-20). Comfort (Isa. 40:1; 66:1-3, 13). Ps. 37:11	Gentleness, self control
Hunger and thirst for righteousness	Prov. 2:4; 3:14; Ps. 41:1, 2; 63:1; 84:2; 143:6; isa. 55:1, 2 Jer. 10:10 Matt. 4:1-11; Jn. 7:37; 1 Pe. 2:2, 3; 1 Cor. 3:2, 2 Cor. 12:9, 10; Heb. 5:2 2 Tim. 2:22	Our desire to know the Lord & his word
The merciful	Matt. (cf. 6:12-15; 6:33; 9:13; 12:7; 18:33-34). Isa. 49:10, 13; 54:8, 10; 60:10; Zech. 10:6). James 2:15, 16; 1 Jn. 3:17; Jd. 1:21 Jn 13:34, 35; Eph. 5:2; 4:32 ch. 18:33; 25:34-36; Prov. 19:17; Luke 6:36; 2 Tim. 1:16; Heb. 6:10	Love , mercy kindness
Pure in heart	(John 14; 1 John 1:1-4). John 15:3; See God 1 Tim. 3:16; Jn. 1:18; 14:7-9; 2 Tim 2:22; Ti. 1:15; Heb. 10:22 Ps. 24:4; [1 Pet. 1:22] b Heb. 12:14; 1 John 3:2, 3; Rev. 22:4; [1 Cor. 13:12]	Peace with God
Peacemakers	Prov. 15:1; Jn. 16:33 Act 10:36; Eph. 2:14 peacemakers James 3:18 called 1 John 3:1 sons Rom. 8:14	Peace
Those who were persecuted for righteousness sake	Matt. 5:44; 10:23; John 15:20; 16:34; Ro. 12:14; Ro. 8:37; 1 Jn. 4:4 2 Tim. 2:12; James 5:11; 1 Pet. 3:14	Longsuffering
when they revile and persecute you	2 Cor. 12:9, 10 Heb. 11:26; 1 Pet. 4:14 h John 15:21	Glory in tribulations
Rejoice	Ja. 1:2-4; Ro. 8:37; 1 Jn. 4:4 Acts 5:41; Rom. 5:3; 2 Cor. 12:10; Col. 1:11, 24; Heb. 10:34; James 1:2; 1 Pet. 4:13 j See ch. 21:35	Joy

Study in the Fruit of the Spirit

Beatitudes Matt. 5:1-12

Underline or circle words that indicate different fruit. Romans 5:1-5 example.

Gal. 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Ro. 5:1-5 ¶1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and **rejoice** in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also **glory in tribulations**, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Christ-like →

Col. 3:12-17 ¶12Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, in your hearts to the Lord. 17And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Phil. 2:1-8 ¶1Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

¶5Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Ro. 12:9-21 ¶9Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

¶14Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

¶17Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20Therefore

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

If he is thirsty, give him a drink;

For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.”

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Eph. 4:1-6 ¶11, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Note the fruit of the Spirit, the Character of Christ we are to walk in and by is weaved throughout dispensation of grace.

