

Message Five
The Reality of the Kingdom of the Heavens (1)

Scriptures reading: Matt. 5:1-48.

I. The inward being of the heavenly people revealed in the ninefold blessings:

- A. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens"—v. 3.
1. We need to be poor, emptied, unloaded, in our human spirit that we may realize and possess the kingdom of the heavens—cf. Matt. 19:13-15.
 2. To be poor in spirit means that we are humble, acknowledging that we have nothing, know nothing, can do nothing, and are nothing—Gal. 6:3; John 15:5b; Isa. 57:15; 66:2.
 3. All spiritual progress depends on man's hunger—Luke 1:53; Psa. 81:10.
- B. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted"—v. 4.
1. The entire situation of the world is negative toward God's economy; God wants us to mourn over such a situation.
 2. If we mourn according to God and His economy, we will be comforted by being rewarded with the kingdom of the heavens; we will see God's heavenly ruling over the entire negative situation.
- C. "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth"—v. 5.
1. To be meek means not to resist the world's opposition but to suffer it willingly.
 2. If we are meek, willing to suffer the world's opposition in this age, we will inherit the earth in the coming age—Heb. 2:5-8; Luke 19:17, 19
- D. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied"—v. 6.
1. This surpassing righteousness is Christ Himself lived out of us—Phil. 3:9.
 2. We need to hunger and thirst for this righteousness, to seek after such righteousness, and God will grant us the very righteousness we seek, that we may be satisfied and enter into the kingdom of the heavens— Matt. 5:10, 20; 6:33.
- E. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy"—v. 7.
1. To be righteous is to give one what he deserves, whereas to be merciful is to give one what he does not deserve.
 2. If we are merciful to others, the Lord will give us mercy (2 Tim. 1:16, 18), especially at His judgment seat (James 2:12-13).
- F. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God"—v. 8.
1. To have a pure heart means that our heart is single, seeking nothing but the Lord Himself, so that Christ may grow in us without frustration—13:19-23.
 2. To be pure in heart is to be single in purpose, to have the single goal of accomplishing God's will for God's glory—1 Cor. 10:31.
 3. If we are pure in heart in seeking God, our reward is that we will see God— 2Cor. 3:18; Job. 42:5.
- G. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God"—v.9.
1. Satan, the rebellious one, is the instigator of all rebellion; for the kingdom of the heavens, under its heavenly ruling, we must be those who make peace among men—Heb. 12:14.
 2. Our Father is the God of peace (Rom. 15:33; 16:20), and we must walk in His peaceful life and according to His peaceful nature; in this way we will express His life and nature and be called the sons of God.
- H. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens"—v. 10.
1. The whole world lies in the evil one (1 John 5:19) and is filled with unrighteousness; if we hunger and thirst for righteousness, we will be persecuted for the sake of righteousness.

2. For the sake of the kingdom of the heavens, we need to pay a price for the righteousness that we seek.
- I. “Blessed are you when they reproach and persecute you, and while speaking lies, say every evil thing against you because of Me. Rejoice and exult, for your reward is great in the heavens; for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you”—vv. 11-12.
 1. When we live a life in the spiritual nature of the kingdom and according to the heavenly principles of the kingdom, we are reproached, persecuted, and evilly spoken of, mostly by the religious people, who hold to their traditional religious concepts—Acts 5:41; 13:45, 50; 2 Cor. 6:8; Rom. 3:8.
 2. This persecution is because of our following Christ, the new King—cf. Acts 13:50-52.

II. The highest standard of morality:

- A. “Let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in the heavens” —vv. 16
 1. The expression of the kingdom is with the human virtues in the highest standard of morality—the standard of life that God requires—v. 16, 48.
 2. God’s intention in His New Testament economy is that all the believers become a reproduction of Christ, living a life in which the attributes of God are expressed in the virtues of man—Phil. 1:19-21a.
 3. Eventually, through our growth in life we will be the same as God is in life and nature and live a life with the highest standard of morality for the expression of the kingdom in the divine attributes and human virtues.
- B. If we intend to live in the reality of the kingdom of the heavens, we need to practice the highest standard of morality as revealed by the Lord Jesus in Matt. 5:17-48.
 1. The highest standard of morality involves keeping the principles of the law—vv. 17-20.
 2. In order to have the highest standard of morality, we need to overcome our anger and lust—vv. 21-32.
 3. The requirements of the highest standard of morality can be met only by the Father’s life, not by our natural life—v. 48.
- C. For the believers to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect is to be perfect in His love—5:48; 1 John 4:8, 16; Rom. 13:10; Gal. 5:14.
 1. We must become perfect as our Father is perfect by loving the evil ones and the good ones without discrimination, loving our enemies and praying for our persecutors—Matt. 5:43-47.
 2. Only one kind of love is genuine, and that is the love which comes out of God’s dispensing—Rom. 8:39, 35; 15:30; 5:5.
 3. Love is the most excellent way for us to be anything and to do anything for the building up of the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 12:31b—13:13; 8:1b; Eph. 4:16.

Message Five

Reference Scripture Verses:

Matt. 5:1-48.

1 And when He saw the crowds, He went up to the mountain. And after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. **2** And opening His mouth, He taught them, saying, **3** Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens. **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 be shown mercy. **8** Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. **9** Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God. **10** Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of the heavens. **11** Blessed are you when they reproach and persecute you, and while speaking lies, say every evil thing against you because of Me. **12** Rejoice and exult, for your reward is great in the heavens; for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

13 You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt has become tasteless, with what shall it be salted? It is no longer good for anything except to be cast out and trampled underfoot by men. **14** You are the light of the world. It is impossible for a city situated upon a mountain to be hidden. **15** Nor do *men* light a lamp and place it under the bushel, but on the lampstand; and it shines to all who are in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in the heavens.

17 Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have not come to abolish, but to fulfill. **18** For truly I say to you, Until heaven and earth pass away, one iota or one serif shall by no means pass away from the law until all come to pass. **19** Therefore whoever annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called the least in the kingdom of the heavens; but whoever practices and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of the heavens. **20** For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.

21 You have heard that it was said to the ancients, "You shall not murder, and whoever murders shall be liable to the judgment." **22** But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, Raca, shall be liable to *the judgment of* the Sanhedrin; and whoever says, Moreh, shall be liable to the Gehenna of fire. **23** Therefore if you are offering your gift at the altar and there you remember that your brother has something against you, **24** Leave your gift there before the altar, and first go and be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. **25** Be well disposed quickly toward your opponent at law, while you are with him on the way, lest the opponent deliver you to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. **26** Truly I say to you, You shall by no means come out from there until you pay the last quadrans. **27** You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." **28** But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman in order to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. **29** So if your right eye stumbles you, pluck it out and cast *it* from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish than for your whole body to be cast into Gehenna. **30** And if your right hand stumbles you, cut it off and cast *it* from you, for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish than for your whole body to pass away into Gehenna. **31** And it was said, Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce. **32** But I say to you that every one who divorces his wife, except for the cause of fornication, causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries her who has been divorced commits adultery. **33** Again, you have heard that it was said to the ancients, "You shall not break an oath, but you shall render to the Lord your oaths." **34** But I tell you not to swear at all; neither by heaven, because it is the throne of God; **35** Nor by the earth, because it is the footstool of His feet; nor unto Jerusalem, because it is the city of the great King; **36** Neither shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. **37** But let your word be, Yes, yes; No, no; for anything more than these is of the evil one. **38** You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." **39** But I tell you not to resist him who is evil; rather whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. **40** And to him who wishes to sue you and take your tunic, yield to him your cloak also; **41** And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. **42** To him who asks of you, give; and from him who wants to borrow from you, do not turn away. **43** You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy." **44** But I say to you, Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, **45** So that you may become sons of your Father who is in the heavens, because He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the just and the unjust. **46** For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? **47** And if you greet only your brothers, what better thing are you doing? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? **48** You therefore shall be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

I.

Matt. 19:13-15. 13 Then little children were brought to Him that He might lay His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 But Jesus said, Allow the little children and do not prevent them from coming to Me, for of such is the kingdom of the heavens. 15 And after He laid His hands on them, He went on from there.

Gal. 6:3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Isa. 57:15 For thus says the high and exalted One, Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I will dwell in the high and holy place, And with the contrite and lowly of spirit, To revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.

Isa. 66:2 For all these things My hand has made, And so all these things have come into being, declares Jehovah. But to this kind of man will I look, to him who is poor And of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.

Luke 1:53 The hungry He has filled with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.

Psa. 81:10 I am Jehovah your God, Who brought you up out of the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

Heb. 2:5-8. 5 For *it was* not to angels *that* He subjected the coming inhabited earth, concerning which we speak. 6 But one has solemnly testified somewhere, saying, "What is man, that You bring him to mind? Or the son of man, that You care for him? 7 You have made Him a little inferior to the angels; You have crowned Him with glory and honor and have set Him over the works of Your hands; 8 You have subjected all things under His feet." For in subjecting all things to Him, He left nothing unsubject to Him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to Him,

Luke 19:17 And he said to him, Well *done*, good slave. Because you have become faithful in the least, have authority over ten cities.

Luke 19:19 And he said to this one as well, And you, be over five cities.

Phil. 3:9 And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God *and based* on faith,

Matt. 5:20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.

Matt. 6:33 But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

2Tim. 1:16 May the Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chain;

2Tim. 1:18 May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord in that day. And in how many things he served *me* in Ephesus, you know best.

James 2:12-13. 12 So speak and so do as those who are to be judged by the law of freedom. 13 For the judgment is without mercy to him who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

Matt. 13:19-23. 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand, the evil one comes and snatches away that which has been sown in his heart. This is the one sown beside the way. 20 And the one sown on the rocky places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 Yet he does not have root in himself but lasts only for a time, and when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately he is stumbled. 22 And the one sown in the thorns, this is he who hears the word, and the anxiety of the age and the deceitfulness of riches utterly choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 23 But the one sown on the good earth, this is he who hears the word and understands, who by all means bears fruit and produces, one a hundredfold, and one sixtyfold, and one thirtyfold.

1Cor. 10:31 Therefore whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

2Cor. 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Job. 42:5 I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye has seen You;

Heb. 12:14 Pursue peace with all men and sanctification, without which no one will see the Lord;

Rom. 15:33 Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Rom. 16:20 Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

1John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the evil one.

Acts 5:41 So they went from the presence of the Sanhedrin, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to be dishonored on behalf of the Name.

Acts 13:45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and contradicted the things being spoken by Paul *and* blasphemed.

Acts. 13:50 But the Jews incited the women of high standing who worshipped God, and the chief men of the city, and raised up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas and cast them out from their borders.

2Cor. 6:8 Through glory and dishonor, through evil report and good report; as deceivers and yet true;

Rom. 3:8 And why not *say* (as we are slanderously charged and as some affirm that we say), Let us do evil that good may come? whose judgment is just.

Acts 13:50-52. 50 But the Jews incited the women of high standing who worshipped God, and the chief men of the city, and raised up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas and cast them out from their borders. **51** But they shook off the dust of their feet against them and came to Iconium. **52** And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

II.

Phil 1:19-21. 19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and *the* bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, **20** According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death. **21** For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

1John 4:8 He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.

1John 4:16 And we know and have believed the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him.

Rom. 13:10 Love does not work evil to his neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Gal. 5:14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, in this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Rom. 8:39 Nor height nor depth nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom. 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?

Rom. 15:30 Now I exhort you, brothers, through our Lord Jesus Christ and through the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf,

Rom. 5:5 And hope does not put *us* to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

1Cor. 12:31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And moreover I show to you a most excellent way.

1Cor. 13:1-13. **1** If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but do not have love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. **2** And if I have *the gift of* prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **3** And if I dole out all my possessions to feed *others*, and if I deliver up my body that I may boast, but do not have love, I profit nothing. **4** Love suffers long. Love is kind; it is not jealous. Love does not brag *and* is not puffed up; **5** It does not behave unbecomingly *and* does not seek its own things; it is not provoked *and* does not take account of evil; **6** It does not rejoice because of unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; **7** It covers all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **8** Love never falls *away*. But whether prophecies, they will be rendered useless; or tongues, they will cease; or knowledge, it will be rendered useless. **9** For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; **10** But when that which is complete comes, that which is in part will be rendered useless. **11** When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I thought as a child, I reasoned as a child; since I have become a man, I have done away with childish things. **12** For now we see in a mirror obscurely, but at that time face to face; now I know in part, but at that time I will fully know even as also I was fully known. **13** Now there abide faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

1Cor. 8:1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.

Eph. 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.