

Friday, November 17, 2023 • Read Matthew 5:1–16

Questions from the Scripture text: What did Jesus see (v1)? Where did He go? What did He do? Who else went where? How does v2 emphasize the action? What does Jesus do? Who are blessed in v3? In what are they poor? What is theirs? Who are blessed in v4? What will be done to them? Who are blessed in v5? How? Who are blessed in v6? For what do they hunger? What else do they do for righteousness? What will be done for them? Who are blessed in v7? What will be done for them? Who will be blessed in v8? Why—what (Whom!) will they see? Who are blessed in v9? What will they be called, of Whom? What is happening to the ones in v10? For what are they being persecuted? Why are they blessed—what do they have? Who are blessed—pay attention to the pronouns—in v11? What three things will be done to them? What has to be true about the veracity of the denouncing, for this blessing to apply? For Whose sake must this be done to them? With what two commands does v12 begin? What do they have, in what measure, and where? Who else has received both this hardship and this blessing? What else are these persecuted ones (v13)? What mustn't they lose? Why not? What else are they (v14, cf. 4:14–16)? What cannot be done to them? Where has God placed them (v15)? What must they let men see (v16)? Whom will men glorify in response? What does this mean about the source of the light?

What difference and distinction does Christ make in His people? Matthew 5:1–16 prepares us for the morning sermon on the Lord's Day. In these sixteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **King Jesus makes His people into heirs and emissaries of the kingdom of light**.

The King and His people at the mountain. It's important to note that Jesus is moving away from the multitudes and isolating Himself with His disciples (v1). Multitudes generally prefer wealth, levity, pride, feasting, self-seeking, licentiousness, resentment, and ease (basically the opposite of each of v3a, 4a, 5a, 6a, 7a, 8a, 9a, 10a, 11). But believers have something better: Christ Himself and all that comes in Him. So Jesus pulls His disciples aside from the multitudes. He sets before them their blessedness in direct opposition to that of the world. Just as He did in forming the church under Moses, He gathers them to a mountain and declares their blessed distinctiveness before commanding them to live in that distinctive way.

It is in the King that we have the kingdom. But notice how all of these are things that are ours in Christ. Every believer is someone who has realized that, without Christ, we have nothing but poverty (v3a). But with Christ, we have the entire kingdom in Him (v3b).

If we mourn over our sin and misery and all ongoing effects of the fall, as those who hate everything that is against Christ (v4a), then we must surely be comforted in the completion of the working out of the effects of His victory (v4b).

If we do not advance our own reputation or our own interests but meekly know our place as unprofitable servants at best (v5a), we find that resting in Christ elevates us to the status of joint-heirs with Him (v5b)—even if, for a time, we suffer as we wait for the inheritance (cf. Rom 8:17).

If our hunger and thirst is for righteousness, we will be constantly hungry and thirsty (v6a)! Christ Himself will be satisfying, and we can praise God that He is completely satisfied with us in Him. But, He is not satisfied to leave us as we are, and we are not satisfied to remain as we are. Trying to live that way is a common mistake of our antinomian age.

However, here is a marvelous guarantee: we in whom the Spirit has created this hunger shall ultimately be filled. The work that He has begun in us WILL be completed (cf. Php 1:6). We WILL be conformed to Christ's image (cf. Rom 8:29–30). And even as we purify ourselves as He is pure, we are doing this precisely because we have that assured hope that we will be like Him (cf. 1John 3:2–3).

It is in the King that we become like Him. There is a marvelous freedom that comes from being resting upon Christ. We are free to show mercy (v7a), to have a single-minded pursuit of God (v8a), and to release bitterness by forgiving (v9a). In particular, the singlemindedness toward God called "purity of heart" in v8 will find its mark. "Seeing God" is that ultimate glory, that beatific vision, that we will enjoy in the day that our hunger and thirst for righteousness are satisfied (cf. 1John 3:2–3 again). We will be shown mercy (v8b), even the mercy of being adopted as children (v10b), but the greatest part of our blessing as children will be to see our Father (v9b).

The other kingdom will hate us for the sake of our King. So, Jesus has set before us the world-dwarfing blessedness that belongs to those who have Him. And now, we are brought back to "the world" who are the "they" in v11. The disciples can see over their shoulders the multitude down the mountain. This is no small group that is reviling and persecuting and falsely speaking all kinds of evil.

But, if this is coming to them *for the sake of Jesus*, these attacks have the exact opposite of the world's intent. For the attack themselves are reminders and verifications that they have Christ! So, the Lord commands us not only to be comforted, but a double and intensified command of celebration. Rejoice! Be glad! Indeed, be exceedingly glad! The prophets before them suffered much for the hope of Christ; now the disciples (and we!) have a clear view of Christ Himself. So, let them (and we!) rejoice exceedingly over Him!

But we have been put here precisely to show the kingdom difference. It is precisely in our distinction from others, our saltiness vs their non-saltiness, that we are assigned our usefulness in this world (v13). The light does not put itself on the stand (v15). But God has put us where we cannot be hidden (v14) so that our good works will glorify Him (v16). Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness of 4:14–16, so those who are conformed to Him must not shrink back from sticking out like a sore thumb. Only let them be clear about from whence the light has come: the Father in heaven, Who has adopted them as children in His beloved and well-pleasing Son!

What do you know about yourself apart from Christ? How have you been growing in displaying the character of the King? When/how have you suffered for His sake? Who has assigned this to you? How are you making it known that He is the One Who has made the difference in you?

Sample prayer: Our gracious God and our heavenly Father, we thank You for gathering us unto Yourself in Jesus Christ, the Son. We have no good from ourselves, but we pray that Your Spirit would continue making us more and more like Him, so that by His light in us, it will be seen that He is the Light who has shined in the darkness, we ask in His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP46 "God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength" or TPH464 "The Beatitudes"

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Titus three versus three through eight. These are God's words. For we ourselves. We're also once foolish. Disobedient. Deceived. Serving, various lusts and pleasures. Living in malice and envy. Hateful and hating one another. But, When the kindness and the love of god, our savior toward man appeared Not by works of righteousness, which we have done.

But according to his mercy, he saved us. Through the washing of regeneration. And renewing of the holy spirit. Whom he poured out on us abundantly through. Jesus christ, our savior. That having been justified. By his grace. We should become heirs according to the hope. Of eternal life. This is a faithful saying, And these things i want you to affirm.

Constantly. That those who have believed in god. Should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good. And profitable. To men.

And that sounds just reading of gods inspired and inherent word. Where we see in verse 3. How great and complete are sinfulness? Once was sinfulness, Within ourselves foolish. Deceived. Serving our own desires. So sinfulness against God of course. Disobedient. Being deceived is also sin against god. Not seeing him or his truth, rightly.

And serving our own desires. Lost some pleasures. Heart, desires and motivations. Rather than serving him. And sending, of course, not only against ourselves and against god. Uh, but against others living in malice and envy. Malice is when you desire ill for others. Envy. Is, when you are bothered that good can come to others.

Hateful and hating one another hating. Being hated and hating. And so, Fully sinful. Or as we say, totally Depraved. And yet. Were saved, not by. Works of righteousness, which we have done. Verse 5. But we're saved when god counts us righteous by grace. Verse 7. He counts us righteous by grace.

And since it's not by our works, But it's by the lord jesus and his works. When jesus. Appears and when jesus obeys in our place, It's not just that. Uh, the son of god appears. Although he does. It's not just that the righteousness of god appears, Although it does.

But especially is the kindness and love. Of god. Our savior verse 4. Towards such sinners as we are. Verse 3. And this. Appearing of god comes. In human history. When the lord jesus enters the world, Lives righteously dies. Atoningly. For us. But this love and kindness of god, appears not only in human history, but in the life and mind and heart.

Of each believer. As god by his spirit renews us. In order that we are able to see and acknowledge and respond to christ. To see and acknowledge and respond to god in christ. So that he not only renews us but he also washes us And that renewal bringing us to faith, making us to be.

Cleansed by. Uh, the lord jesus. And so, there's this work of the holy spirit. That takes place again. You see this? Uh, triune description. Of our salvation, it is The love of god. Towards man, that appears In. Uh, the lord jesus. Who is our savior? God, our savior verse 4 is also jesus christ, our savior verse 6, Clearly stating that jesus is god.

And, Uh, it is from god from jesus christ. Um, that we received the holy spirit, he gives us faith. Let's try and work of salvation by god, the father And the sun. And the holy spirit. Uh, so that We received the spirit through christ to unite us. To christ.

So that not only are we justified by grace, but since we're justified by grace, Since our being made right with god, comes by being joined to jesus. All of the benefits of being going to jesus, come to us. Therefore, not only justification verse 7, but also adoption and inheritance second half of verse 7.

That having been justified by his grace, we should become heirs. According to the hope of eternal life. And between the one when we were justified and adopted and the other, when we come into the inheritance of that eternal life, for which we hope, There is the work of sanctification.

Those who have believed in god, then verse 8, They have believed into a christ to has made all the difference. And they're standing with god. Now, instead of Um, Those who are under God's wrath, they are Righteous before god, those who are guilty before. God, Righteous before god, jesus has made all the difference in their future condition.

Rather than perishing in their sin to come. Into the The full enjoyment of their inheritance. The eternal life in god. But in between those who have believed in god, verse a, to find that jesus continues to make or in the in between time. Also makes all the difference. They are careful to maintain good works.

And not just good works. Then for themselves, but good works that bring benefits to others. And particularly the preaching of this is, what is profitable? Remember, there are those increte at this time Do a lot of theological talking, but it doesn't produce godliness. Why doesn't it produce godliness? It doesn't produce godliness because it is not coming from and in and through the lord jesus christ, by his spirit and jesus produces.

Godliness. And so, as we preach justification, by grace alone, through faith alone, As we preach adoption, and the certainty of future blessedness. So that we don't see our good works as earning either of these things. Either right, standing with god or our future blessedness yet Uh, we also preach that jesus makes all the difference.

And a believer's life and all believers. Should be careful. To maintain good works. And this is something. That Titus and the elders, he is to be appointing and crete must Um, Affirm. Continually this faithful saying. Which applies especially to the second half of verse 8. That those who have believed in god should be careful to maintain good works.

Uh, but therefore also To the rest of chapter 3, thus far and indeed the whole book thus far, That this is the difference that christ makes And the believer's life. Uh, this is one of the in the believer's life right now. And increasingly. So, throughout this life. The work of sanctification.

By his spirit who applies to us. Our union. With him. And so, each of us should know ourselves to have been apart from christ. Hopeless centers. And that the only way that we could come to be in christ, was by the power. And mercy of god, the father, the son, and the holy spirit.

And that the difference this should make in our lives then is that we would be careful to maintain good works. And if we're not, Then we should come back to Titus 3 and meditate upon it. Am i thinking rightly about what i was apart from from christ to my thinking rightly about god, my savior, father, son, holy spirit.

Am i thinking rightly about the difference? The christ makes in my life ought not i desire. Not these various losts and pleasures back from verse 3. But rather that The greatness of my savior would be shown. In the difference that he makes. Uh, in my life. The lord give us to make good use then.

Of this portion of his word, especially When we are not being careful. To maintain good works. Let's pray. We thank you, father for Giving yourself to us and for us. In your saw, in our lord jesus. Who is savior together with you and with the spirit? And we thank you for the work of the spirit.

Who Makes us new and gives us life from christ washes, us clean and christ. We pray that his work might continue. Giving us the zeal of christ and The godly character of christ, more and more. And help us the lord. When Our living for you, slags. That we would.

Remember. Who we were apart from you and how kind. And how merciful? About faithful. Now, powerful, you have been as our savior. And grant that by Your spirits making us to meditate upon your word. You would. Work out more. Of the life of christ to us. We ask in his name.

Amen.