

**“SITTING IN THE PRESENCE OF
CHRIST, CAN CHANGE US!”**
MATTHEW CH5:5-6

ILLUSTRATION

Let's come back to the circles! Remember the two kingdoms? Let's come back to the drawing – The two aspects of Kingdom life, being, the “already now” aspect and the “not yet fully” aspect. Remember?

JESUS' BLESSINGS V3-12

The initial phase of Jesus' ministry has been narrated by Matthew, albeit briefly, but powerfully and the context of the “Sermon on the Mount” is one where JESUS has demonstrated Kingly Power over Satan Ch4:1-11, Kingly Power in the announcement of His Kingdom Mission Ch4:17, Kingly Power in the calling of His Kingdom Disciples Ch4:18-22, and Kingly Power in the conduct of His “Extraordinary Kingdom Ministry” teaching, preaching and healing throughout His tour of Galilee Ch4:22-25!

Matthew now records an extensive “Kingdom Message” (discourse), known as “The Sermon on the Mount”.

The word “Blessed” in the Greek “***Markarios***”, meaning “joy or happy”, suggesting that there is something about being favoured by God, that results in joy and happiness! When God places His favour on a person, the “joy and/or happiness” that is on offer, is available now, and fully permanent in the future, for the disciples of JESUS!

So one way to consider this word “Blessed” - “Markarios” is, not so much as, on hopes of what shall be (although that is an aspect of it!), but “congratulations” now from and by JESUS, ***on what is!*** (Bring out the “Congratulations” banner) It is like JESUS is literally saying “Congratulations for being!”

What is a paradox? Because all of the beatitude statements are a “paradox”. If a paradox, is a conflict of statements, how can someone who is meek, be blessed, congratulated? Furthermore, are the beatitudes “statements by JESUS or “explanations” by JESUS or both?

JESUS' THIRD BLESSING! V5

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth”

What does it mean to be meek? Is being meek, a weakness? Can I really be meek and be blessed by JESUS? What did JESUS mean by inheriting the earth?

The Greek word for “meek” is “praus”, meaning to deal with people gently, humbly, a controlled desire to see the needs of others met before your own. A willingness to

suffer, rather than cause injury to others! It is first used in Number Ch12:3 regarding Moses in contrast to his siblings.

Carson says in his Book “Sermon on the Mount”, “The more I read these three chapters – Matthew 5, 6, and 7 – The more I am both drawn to them and shamed by them. Their brilliant light draws me like a moth to a spotlight: but the light is so bright it sears and burns.” (page 13) He goes on to say that “The Scriptures make so much of meekness that it is all the more appalling that meekness does not characterise more of us who claim to be Christians” (page 23).

What about “earth”, this is taken from Psalm 37:11, the word “earth” can be used interchangeably with “land”, and is seen as Old Testament language, where God promised rest for those who He took into the land, a time of blessing associated with peace and rest. JESUS is teaching that He will congratulate those who are meek, with rest, peace in their souls. We can be congratulated by Jesus when we are meek, with the blessing of His peace and rest in our souls. So meekness is not weakness in the Kingdom of Jesus, meekness is being like Jesus, who was willing to suffer rather than cause injury to others!

JESUS' FOURTH BLESSING! V6

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled”

What did JESUS mean by “righteousness”? What did JESUS mean when He said “..... who hunger and thirst”? What did JESUS mean when He said we could be filled?

Righteousness is the act of doing what is right, in other words, seeking to do God's will, rather than our own will! Those that are blessed are not those who attain it, but those who hunger and thirst after it. It is something that is continual for the Christian this side of eternity, hungering and filling, thirsting and filling!

A Christian cannot get along without “righteousness, just like he cannot get along without food and water! JESUS promises to bless those who pursue God's will for their lives, He promises that they can know and do God's will. God's will is revealed for our lives through the “SCRIPTURES”.

APPLICATION

Don't you want to contribute and be part of such a community?

If JESUS says “Congratulations, by being meek – dealing with people gently, being willing to suffer rather than cause injury to another”, how can this be related personally and in our community?

If JESUS says “Congratulations for seeking God's will in your life”, how can this be related personally and in our community?