

Signs of Life

"The greatest need of modern Christianity is the rediscovery of the Sermon on the Mount as the only practical way to live." E. Stanley Jones

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. **Matt. 5:3-6***

Three Convictions:

1. The Sermon on the Mount cannot be heard and taken to heart without life impact.
2. Jesus is the smartest person who ever lived.
3. The Sermon on the Mount is a description of someone who has been impacted by the gospel. It is to be read as descriptive of what happens in a person's life who has embraced Jesus Christ of Nazareth and his radical message. The sermon is a picture of "gospelized" humanity.

Prescription vs. Description

What is the gospel?

*After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" **Mark 1:14-15***

The time has come (is fulfilled):

The Kingdom is near (proximate):

Repent and Believe:

The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The real question is not how do I perceive my life in these present circumstances, but how does my Father in heaven see my life. And when my life is under the transforming power of the Gospel and the beatitudes are starting to show up in my life, he considers me blessed. Fortunate. Approved of. In Sync!

The word "poor" that Jesus used is a word used to describe people who were so poor, so empty, that they are dependent upon others for survival.

This first beatitude sets the tone for the whole sermon. Miss this and you just might miss it all.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

The word Jesus used for "mourn" referred to someone who experiences passionate grief at the loss of a loved one.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"O the bliss of the man who is always angry at the right time and never angry at the wrong time, who has every instinct, and impulse, and passion under control, because he himself is God-controlled, who has the humility to realize his own ignorance and his own weakness, for such a man is a king among men!" William Barclay

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

This is no gentile hunger. This is the hunger of someone who is starving. It is the longing for something as if your life depended upon it.