

June 8, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Mt. 5:1-2 *Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to Him, and He began to teach them. (NIV)*

Over the next few days, we will examine some of the changes that the LORD makes in those who are living the true life in the LORD. Jesus shares these with His disciples and those who came to hear Him. This is called the 'sermon on the mount.' It is the first 'sermon' from Jesus and is full of great wisdom for us. The first section of His message is typically called the beatitudes, which literally means, those that are filled with great joy and blessing. Should that not be the redeemed of the LORD? We are to be so filled with His Spirit that He should be overflowing through us onto those around us.

These eight 'beatitudes show us the blessing that will come from walking in the Spirit. I like to call them the *Beautiful Attitudes* because they exemplify the beautiful attitudes of our Savior. Now why did Jesus sit down? This typifies the significance of a matter and was the common posture for teaching in that day. Usually, the teacher would sit and those listening would stand. When Jesus saw the crowds, He knew this was an opportunity to teach them these significant points of blessing. Each one has an outcome of blessings that come only from the Father. He is the only One that can bless us with His Holy Blessings. Man cannot do what the LORD Himself can. But we can pass on that which has been given to us. That's exactly what Matthew was doing. As one of the twelve disciples of Jesus, he most assuredly heard these words spoken by the Word of God Himself.

The teaching of Jesus is so profound in its content and its pragmatism. Once we hear the word of God, from the Word of God, it can't help but bring us to a place of change or a place of selfishness and rebellion. There were certainly some in that crowd who heard the Word of God and yet walked away unchanged. This happens daily. Many cannot get past themselves and receive the changing power of God's Word. They may hear it with their physical ears, but their hearts do not receive it. **James 1:22** *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. (NIV)*

Dear LORD, You are so good to us and Your blessings flow to us as we walk in Your presence. Help us not to waste these good things that You give us. Instead, help us to walk in step with the Spirit. In Jesus Name, Amen