



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



Jesus' Expectations of You

Sunday, July 15, 2018

Bob Bradley

Matthew 5:1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

Matthew 5:2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

Matthew 5:3 Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:4 Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Matthew 5:5 Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Matthew 5:6 Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Matthew 5:7 Blessed *are* the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Matthew 5:8 Blessed *are* the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:9 Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Matthew 5:10 Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:11 Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Matthew 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

It has been a good time. It has been a great time. It is a good time to be able...to go up and have a baptizing here. We have never had a baptizing of the evening in the twenty years I have been here. It is good. Is it not? It is good to be able to baptize people who are getting saved. There are good things and the great things God is doing with anticipation of so many great things that are ahead. I want to thank the Lord for that tonight.

Jesus is speaking here in Matthew 5. As you read chapter 5, you are going to find out that this message, this sermon is being preached; Jesus is teaching His disciples, not very long after He starts His public ministry.

I thought as I studied on this down through the week, there is probably a reason for this message at this time because Jesus was calling people. Jesus was calling people to come and follow Him. He was calling people from the world. We know that He just called some fishermen to come and follow Him. Not only that but also, as you read

down through here, He called publicans. He called all kinds of different people to come and follow Him. However, as He starts here very early in His ministry, He wants everyone to understand some things that He expects out of them if they are going to be people of His kingdom, if they are going to be people that are going to follow Him, if they are going to allow Him to be the Lord of their lives and to be the king of their lives; then He expected some things out of them.

There is nothing wrong with that. Is there? If we are going to ask God to be our Savior, if the Lord is going to be our Savior; if He is going to save us and redeem us and cleanse us and He is going to bless us then there should be some things and He should expect some things out of our life. These things, as we read here tonight, you can look at it in a way that this is the rule of law for the kingdom of God, or the constitution for the kingdom of God. I know he was talking to His disciples here. Do you know what? You and I are disciples also. A disciple just means a student or a learner. That is all it really means. He was speaking to these twelve on the hillside one night.

I am glad of something tonight. He is still yet speaking to people today. He is still yet speaking to us. He is still yet letting us know what He expects out of us.

Again, I think this was not by accident that he is speaking these words very early in His ministry. He wants people to know what He expects out of them if they are going to follow Him...and be His people.

Listen. Character in my life and my conduct are very important. If I am a child of God, and I say that I am a child of God then my character is very important. My conduct, what I do, and I conduct myself is very important.

Do you know what Jesus is going to tell them here? He is going to teach them some things here about character and about conduct.

Listen. I think probably, in our world today, in a lot of different places that is one thing that we are missing a lot of. Used to, men and women, everywhere that you went, back when I was a boy; you did not have to worry about people stealing from you, or lying to you, or doing anything like that because people had some character about them. Do you know what you could do? You could go out and buy something for thousands and thousands of dollars. You could shake hands with people and we could agree on whatever it was. You did not have to worry about people cheating you. Do you know what? That is not the case today.

You can have all the lawyers you want. You can draw all the papers you want. However, do you know what we have done today? We have thrown honesty, sincerity, and character out the window.

Listen. If we are going to follow Jesus Christ then our character has to mean something. Our character and our conduct, we must live and conduct ourselves in a way that our lives will bring glory unto the God of heaven. He expects that out of us, if we are going to live for Him. That is not asking anything out of hand. Is it?

Get this. Keep this in mind. Jesus is going to tell us some things that is going to bless us, can bless us, will bless us. I want you to understand also something. There is a law that is forever settled in heaven. Every man, every woman that has ever lived on planet earth; this law is for you. The Bible tells us if we sow unto the flesh, we shall of the flesh reap corruption. If we sow unto the spirit, we shall of the spirit reap life everlasting. Amen!

Do you know what that means? It means we are going to reap what we sow. What we sow in our lives, our character, our conduct, and how we live in our lives and what we do and what comes out of our lives is going to be the same thing that is going to come back to us.

Do you know what Jesus wants people to understand? He wants His disciples to understand that He was expecting something out of them if they were going to live for Him, if they were going to be His disciples then He expected something out of them. We call this The Beatitudes.

The word *Beatitudes* means to be blessed. It brings out the idea of divine joy. It brings out the idea of perfect happiness, an inner satisfaction and sufficiency that does not depend upon outward circumstances to be happy.

Are you glad today, when we become a child of God, when the Lord born us into His family, He put something within us that we do not have to depend on the world just to be happy? I am glad that we have His presence on the inside. When we live right and live for Him, then we can wake up every day with a smile on our face. We can be, on the inside; we can be happy and we can be filled with joy. We can know where we are going because we know who we belong to. Isn't that great to know?

That is what the word *blessed* means, or *beatitude* means. It means divine blessing.

Our circumstances do not dictate our joy or happiness. If that was true, if we allow our circumstances to dictate how we feel then do you know what we are going to do most every day? We are going to be miserable. This world, everything that is around us; they oppose us. They do not like us. They are going to do all kinds of things here that is going to try to tear us down.

Listen. We are so blessed that we have a God that loves us and cares about us. Do you know what we know? We know and we should be telling the world tonight that Jesus Christ is offering them divine joy. Joy that comes from yonder's world, a joy that we can have on the inside, even though the world is falling apart, we may not have any money. They may close the plant. We may lose our jobs and all kinds of things may happen, but if you are a child of the king tonight, do you know what you know? You know He has you in the hallow of His hand. You know beyond a shadow of a doubt that He is going to take care of you. Isn't that great? That is the God that we serve. That should make us happy every day.

Get this.

Matthew 5:3 Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

When we read that we think sometimes that we are talking about people who mopes around all the time and does not do much. They always have a long face. Jesus is not talking about that. He is talking about some people that deliberately understand who they are. They understand they cannot take care of themselves.

Do you know what I learned a long time ago, in my Christian life? I could not do anything on my own. I cannot depend upon this flesh to take care of me nor can you. The poor in spirit are those who understands who they are and how much they need the God of heaven. We need Him tonight because He is the omnipotent one. He is the one that has all power both in heaven and in earth. You and I need Him tonight. We need Him to move. We need Him to have anything at all. We need Him.

The poor in spirit are those who recognize that they cannot do this all on their own.

Jesus said, "Blessed are you...divine joy will be upon your life..." Is that a great promise? That is a great promise! To understand we are nothing and we cannot live this life without Him. We cannot get to heaven without Him. When we get to the place that we can understand that and we will understand that then divine joy is yours. Amen! That is what it says.

Matthew 5:3 Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The next thing He says is this.

Matthew 5:4 Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

The word *mourn* is talking about those that show grief, and those that as they look around in this world and all that is going on in this world; they see the sadness that is going on and the sin that is going on. Do you know what? They mourn because little children going hungry. They mourn because of old folks being abused. They mourn because of all the sin that is going on around us.

Do you know what? Jesus said here...we may be mourning today, we may feel sorry today; these things may stir us on the inside. They may make our lives...we may have sorrow when we look around. However, listen—there is going to come a day, He said here, you are going to be comforted.

I want you to understand something. There is going to come a day that Jesus Christ is going to right all the wrongs. There is coming a day that children are not going to go hungry. There is coming a day, thank God, that they old folks are not going to be neglected. There is coming a day that all the crooks...God is going to put them where they belong. Not only that, but His people—He is going to take us home and we are going to be with Him. Thank God, we are going to be comforted. Amen!

There are all kinds of issues in life. Are there things in your life that makes you feel sorry? Are there things in your life that brings grief in your life? Sure, there is.

Listen. We may mourn now but divine joy is on the way. Divine blessing is on the way. Sometimes, life gets hard and it does. Sometimes situations get hard, and they do. Do you know what? That is when we need to understand that He is holding us in His hand. He knows what He is doing. He may be working out some things our life that we do not need.

Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

“Meek or gentle” those that endure injury with patience and without resentment, those that are humble. He says, “Blessed are the meek...”

Listen. If we are going to be a child of Almighty God then we cannot be people who are mean and hateful. We cannot be people who goes around doing all kinds of sinful, hurtful and harmful things. Do you know what we are going to be? We are going to be people who are meek, and gentle. We are going to be people that even though we are injured—do you know what we are not going to do? Even though someone may spiritually injure us, we are not going to try to retaliate.

Do you know what I am glad of? I am glad when the Holy Ghost moves in...when He has control of our lives, then do you know what has to go? Pride has to go. The spirit of God, the Holy Ghost and pride will not dwell in the same place.

Listen. We can live here and experience divine joy when we are meek and gentle. When we have a spirit about us, even though people may hurt us and injure us; we will not try to retaliate. That is a spirit, that is a person that is going to experience divine joy.

We live in a world today, you do me wrong and I am going to do you wrong. Amen! That is wrong. That is not a Christian attitude. We should not have that attitude and be Christian people. We should be meek and gentle and humble. Do you know what happens here? The Bible says that we are going to inherit the earth. Meek people, gentle people, humble people; people who do not retaliate when they are injured. They are going to inherit the earth.

When you read the Bible do you know what you can find out? Get this. There is going to be a day and time when we, the children of God, are going to reign on this earth. We all know that. It is called the millennium. It is called the thousand-year reign of Christ. After the tribulation period has ended, after Armageddon is over, the Lord Jesus comes back riding a white horse, when you read Revelation 19 and 20; then we know that Jesus Christ is going to come back to planet earth. When you read Matthew 25, we know that He is going to judge the nations. We know that He is going to do that. Do you know what He is going to do? He is going to set up a kingdom here on earth. A kingdom that is going to be ruled and reigned by Him and a kingdom that is going to be filled with righteousness, not sin. There is not going to be any war going on here for a thousand years. Do you know what people are going to be? They are going to be gentle people. They are going to be meek people. That is why to me it says here that

the meek are going to inherit the earth. I am glad there is more to living than just living here in the day and time that we are living in. This is not all there is.

I know we think sometimes, when we put our families in the ground that it is all there is. However, listen. If they are saved, God has a work for them. Their work did not stop in the grave. My work and your work will not stop when we go to the grave. God has a work for you and me and it does not stop in the grave. It is going to go on and on. Thank God He knows what He is doing. Isn't that wonderful to know?

If the grave ended it all then this would be a miserable place to live. Would it not? It really would be. The Bible says, "...we would be of all men most miserable..." amen! If we had hope in this life only, we would be of all men most miserable.

Not only did he say that but he said this.

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Jesus wants the people of His kingdom, of His church, to hunger and thirst after righteousness. Just like we get hungry for food, if we do not eat much during the day... When Ellie stays at the house, the first thing she says when she opens her eyes is, "Papaw, what are we eating for breakfast?" She has a hunger that she wants to eat. Jesus is telling us that we need have a hunger for righteousness. We need to have a desire to live a righteous life. We need to have a desire in our heart to live right before Almighty God. When we have that hunger, when we have a thirst for righteousness, we are going to be filled.

When I purpose in my life that I am going to live for Him, I am not going to allow the world to destroy me. I am not going to follow the sins of this world. I am going to allow Him to lead my life. Do you know what I know is coming? Divine blessing and divine joy is coming. Do you know why? Because I belong to Him. I belong to...He is my Savior. He is my God. I am His child. He is my Father. Do you know what I know? He is going to take care of me. He will take care of you too if you belong to Him.

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Mercy means to be actively compassionate. In other words, it is not to say you are merciful. It is not to act with a few pious actions. Actively living in a way that you are merciful. Being merciful to people; to help people, to withhold judgement to those who really needs to be punished. That is someone that is merciful. It is to help others in need, who cannot help themselves. That is being merciful.

Do you know what Jesus expects out of you and me? He expects us to be merciful. Amen! When we do that we know, we know that divine blessing is on our way. We know that divine joy is on our way.

The next thing He says here...

Matthew 5:8 Blessed *are* the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Spiritually prosperous are the pure in heart, pure in heart; those who have a pure heart, those who does not have a mixed heart, those whose life is not mixed with the world and mixed with sin that is not all mixed up, but those that has a pure heart shall see God. When we read that we automatically think, one day we are going to see Him out there. Do you know what I learned in life? When I live right and when I am right with Him, when my life is pure before Him; I get to see Him now. I get to see Him work in my life now. I get to see Him do things in my life—when I put my nose in His book, when I put my heart and pour my heart out before Him in praying and I live right before Him every day, do you know what happens? I get to see Him. I get to see Him work in my life. I get to see Him do things in my life. I get to see Him do things in my life that I cannot do for myself. I get to see Him give direction and give discernment and show the right path and stay off the wrong path. I get to see Him in my life.

Spiritually prosperous are the pure in heart. Divine joy is upon them that have a pure heart. We get to see God. Isn't that great that we get to see Him now? We are going to see Him in heaven one day and we are going to live with Him forever. I think and I know that we get to see Him today. When we live right here, we get to see Him now. We get to see Him in our lives. We get to see Him do things in our lives. We get to see Him bless our lives. We get to see Him manifest himself in our lives. We get to see Him use us in ways that we could never do ourselves. We get to see that. Simply because we are pure in heart. We are not mixed up with the world. We are not mixed up with activities. We are not mixed up with all kinds of pleasures. We are pure in heart. He says here you shall see God.

Matthew 5:9 Blessed *are* the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Do you know what Jesus could have done when He was here? All those that mocked Him and ridiculed Him and said all kinds of things against Him. Do you know what Jesus could have done? He could have just wiped them all out. Couldn't He? He could have just wiped them all out and they could have been done.

Do you know what it says here? The word peacemaker means those who actively intervene to make peace. In other words, those that are working to make peace. Those that are actively working to make peace. Not just someone that is meek, necessarily. Rather those that are actively working to make peace—we shall be called the sons of God. Those who take positive actions to turn and create peace. When we do that in our lives. That is what Jesus wants in our lives. He wants us to be peacemakers and not troublemakers. Amen! He wants us to be peacemakers. That is what He wants out of our lives. When we are peacemakers then divine joy is there. Do you know what happens? We are called the sons of God. Isn't that great? When we live right and do right and we are right; Jesus Christ looks at us as His children. Isn't that awesome? That is awesome my friend.

Matthew 5:10 Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Do you know what Jesus knew? He knew these disciples were going to be talked about, persecuted. He knew some of them were going to be martyred. He knew some of them were going to be stoned and crucified and all kinds of things. Jesus knew all this stuff. He makes a statement to them.

Matthew 5:10 Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

In other words, if you are persecuted because you are living right; divine joy is headed your way. When you suffer persecution for Christ's sake, you can count on one thing; divine joy and happiness is on your way. He says for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Do you know what? There is a place for people. God has prepared a place for people who are suffering for His name.

Matthew 5:11 Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Spiritually prosperous, happy are you, divine joy is on the way to you when men revile you. When men persecute you and say all manner of evil against you falsely, He says, divine joy is on the way. Divine blessing is on the way.

Matthew 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great *is* your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

These are some of the things that Jesus expects out of you and me. It is talking about conduct, character, and what He expects out of us and what He does not expect out of us.

Listen. If we are going to be in His kingdom, we are going to be His subjects, we are going to be His people, we are going to be His sons and daughters and we are going to experience divine joy; then He expects us to live and our manner of life needs to be where that it reflects Him.

Listen. They called people Christians first at Antioch, when you read the book of Acts. The word Christian means to be Christlike. If we call ourselves Christians then we need to live by the pattern that God has set in His Word for us to live by. When we do that then the world can see how that we live, that we are bringing glory and praise to His name.

Jesus died for you. He loves you.

Come and pray—