

Handout 1: The Beatitudes Lesson 3:

THE DIVINE JUBILEE AND THE NEW EXODUS

Proclamation of the Jubilee year: *Seven weeks of years shall you count—seven times seven years—so that the seven cycles amount to forty-nine years. [...] This fiftieth year you shall make sacred by proclaiming liberty in the land for all its inhabitants.* Leviticus 25:8, 10

He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.’ Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, ‘Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.’ Luke 4:16-21

THE LIBERATION OF THE EXODUS EXPRESSED IN THE JUBILEE YEAR OF GRACE

Jubilee Liberation	Exodus Liberation
1. the land would be redeemed and all land debts forgiven (Lev 25:13-17).	1. God redeemed the “firstborn” of Israel (Ex 12:1-34).
2. all Israelite slaves are to be freed (Lev 25:35-55).	2. God freed Israel from slavery in Egypt (Ex 12:37-51).
3. the land would revert to the tribal family entrusted with it (Lev 25:10, 23-34).	3. God gave Israel the Promised Land (Jos 3-4).
M. Hunt © copyright September 2005 www.AgapeBibleStudy.com	

The “liberation” that Jesus would bring about in the “new exodus”: *About eight days after he said this, he took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.* Luke 9:28-31

THE “NEW EXODUS” LIBERATION FULFILLED IN JESUS CHRIST

Liberation	Fulfilled in Christ
1. the debt of the curses incurred for failing to keep the Old Covenant Law were forgiven	<i>Christ ransomed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written, ‘Cursed be everyone who hangs on a tree...’</i> (Gal 3:13).
2. He freed us from slavery to sin and death	<i>We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin</i> (Rom 6:6).
3. Through His death, burial, and Resurrection we received the promise of eternal life in the true Promise Land, the Kingdom of Heaven.	<i>Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ He replied to him, ‘Amen, I say to you. Today you will be with me in Paradise’</i> (Lk 23:42-43)
Michal Hunt © copyright September 2005: Agape Bible Study, www.agapebiblestudy.com	

Blessed are they (blessed are you) who are persecuted: we take up our crosses and follow Jesus, committing ourselves to everything He has taught us, even enduring persecution for His sake, but doing so joyfully because we know He has promised us eternal life in our Father's Kingdom.

With Christ living in us we become conformed to His image of peace and love. In the image of Christ we become divine children of His Father

"The only ladder to heaven is the Cross"
-- St. Rose of Lima

Blessed are the peacemakers

Our old hearts are replaced with the pure heart of Jesus our Redeemer. We will see God's face in the faces of everyone with whom we share His love.

Blessed are the pure in heart

When we show our mercy and forgiveness we will be given mercy and forgiveness through Jesus' perfect Sacrifice on the Cross

Blessed are the merciful

Seek the King of Righteousness to be filled by Christ in the Eucharist

← **Turning Point**

Blessed are those who hunger & thirst for righteousness

Yield our will to God's will for our lives = renewal → inherit "the Land"; the Church = dominion to bind and loose

Blessed are the meek

Mourn own sins and world sin = purification → comfort & strength, Reconciliation

Blessed are those who mourn

Those who acknowledge their need for God → Kingdom of Heaven = eternal life promised through Baptism and faithfully living the Law of love on a life time journey of faith

Blessed are the poor in spirit

The Progression of the Beatitudes

Beatitudes contain 7 or 8 (depending on how you count them) successive fundamental spiritual states that every Christian must strive to achieve. The Beatitudes must be lived fully and completely just as the 10 Commandments have to be lived in their entirety.

Handout 3: The Beatitudes Lesson 3

Questions for group discussion:

1. Do you feel you are self-sufficient and can handle life's struggles on your own, or do you acknowledge "poverty of spirit" and turn to God in the struggles as well as in the joys that life can bring? Give some examples.
2. Can you think of some strategies that would be helpful in your daily walk with God that will remind you of your need to acknowledge childlike spirituality and "poverty of Spirit"?
3. What are the dangers in trusting to one's conscience in determining right from wrong? Can a conscience be completely trusted or can a human conscience become damaged and untrustworthy through exposure to sin?
4. Do you yield to "poverty of spirit: and the sovereignty of God in the teachings handed down by Christ to St. Peter and the Apostles and through them to their successors, the Pope and the Bishops who form the Magisterium of the Holy Roman Catholic Church?
5. Do you follow and support the doctrines and dogmas of the Church or do you pick and choose, deciding for yourself what is good and what is evil in the matters of: birth control, abortion, the covenant obligations of worshiping on the Lord's Day and all Holy Days of Obligation, belief in the perpetual virginity of Mary and in active participation in the Sacraments of the Church?
6. What are the dangers associated with deciding for ourselves which dogmas and doctrines are acceptable or not acceptable to us? In doing so are we following Jesus or are we following another example? Whose child do we become when we decide for ourselves what is good and what is evil?
7. Why is it absolutely necessary to achieve the blessing of "poverty of spirit" before one can continue with the other blessings Jesus has promised?