

Handout 1: Matthew Lesson 9 ~ Beatitude summary continued

BLESSING #4 [the turning point] <i>BLESSED ARE THEY WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS</i>	Christ gives himself to the soul that truly hungers for Him. When the world no longer has any hold on us, all we want is Him.
PROMISE #4 <i>FOR THEY WILL BE SATISFIED</i>	Filled with the Holy Spirit we are nourished by Christ who gives all of Himself to us in the Eucharist: Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity!
BLESSING # 5 <i>BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL</i>	As we yield our will to God and are filled with the divine life of His Son, we grow closer to Him and we become more like Him. We forgive others, and we offer His love to others because He loves and forgives us.
PROMISE #5 <i>FOR THEY WILL BE SHOWN MERCY</i>	The more we forgive others the more we receive forgiveness through the sacrifice of the Son.
BEATITUDE #6 <i>BLESSED ARE THE CLEAN OF HEART</i>	With Christ living in us, His righteousness cleanses us and our hearts become pure; we reflect the image of the Living Christ.
PROMISE #6 <i>FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD</i>	We will see the face of God in each person with whom we share Christ's love.
BEATITUDE # 7 <i>BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS</i>	As we live our lives with the Prince of Peace within us, He gives us the desire to share His message of peace and salvation with others.
PROMISE #7 <i>FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD</i>	<i>But to all who receive him, who believe in His name, He gave the power to become children of God (Jn 1:12).</i>
The result of living the Beatitudes	
<i>BLESSED ARE THEY WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR THE SAKE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS</i>	When we live God's plan for our lives, we may endure injustice and we may be persecuted for His sake and for the plan of God working in the lives of others. Our response is to answer His call to take up our crosses daily and to follow Him.
PROMISE: <i>FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN</i> [this is a repeat of promise #1]	God saw that his children were trapped in a world of sin. He freed us through His Son's sacrificial death on the cross so we could be reborn through Christian baptism as sons and daughters of God, and we become the heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven = eternal life lived within the life of the Most Holy Trinity.
<i>BLESSED ARE <u>YOU</u> WHEN THEY INSULT YOU AND PERSECUTE YOU AND UTTER EVERY KIND OF EVIL AGAINST YOU [FALSELY] BECAUSE OF ME</i>	Our commitment to accepting persecution in the name of Jesus has to be a personal commitment.
PROMISE: <i>REJOICE AND BE GLAD FOR YOUR REWARD WILL BE GREAT IN HEAVEN. <u>THUS THEY PERSECUTED THE PROPHETS WHO WERE BEFORE YOU</u></i>	When we accept our commitment to everything He has taught us, we can rejoice in the confidence of His promise of salvation if we persevere in faith to the end.

Handout 2: Matthew Lesson 9

The summary of the Beatitudes in verses 10-12:

- The verbs of the first and last beatitude promises (verses 3 and 10) are in the **present tense**, while the pronouns are the in the **third** person: *Blessed are the poor in spirit/blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
- In Matthew 5:11 Jesus repeats the previous beatitude with a significant alteration. The blessing changes from the **third** person “**they**” to the **second** person “**you.**”
- The other blessing promises are in the **third** person, **simple future tense** = “**they will or shall be...**” The beatitudes promise a present and a future fulfillment.

The Christian and the Church versus the World in the Salt Metaphor

The World	The Christian/the Church
1. The world is in a state of spiritual decay and has no “flavor” for holiness.	Christian influence for righteousness preserves and encourages what is holy and good, saving the world through the “salt” of faith and righteousness and providing a moral standard based on a “taste” for the righteous of Christ in the Eucharist.
2. The world promotes unhealthy behavior both physically and spiritually. Sin is harmful to living creatures.	In teaching the Law of God and the Gospel message of salvation the Christian promotes temporal health for the body and eternal health for the soul.
3. The world is a corrupting influence; the material and selfish values of the world are in complete opposition to the values of the Christian.	The Christian example is one of purification of body, mind and spirit in giving the self-sacrificial love of Jesus to each other and to the world in general.
4. The world is on the slippery slope to eternal damnation.	The Christian example provides stability through the God given institutions of marriage, family, and the Church. It is the Church as our mother who teaches us the way to salvation and eternal life. It is our obligation as Christians living the Beatitudes to share this teaching with the world.
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The Christian and the Church versus the World in the Light Metaphor:

The World	The Christian/the Church
The world is in darkness (a metaphor for sin)	It is the Christian’s duty to let the light that is Christ and the Gospel message of salvation shine through the Christian soul and Christian community to illuminate the earth as a beacon of truth and mercy.
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Handout 3: Matthew Lesson 9

Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill (Mt 5:17).

When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, “It is finished [teltelestai].” And vowing his head, he handed over the spirit (Jn 19:28-30). “Teltelestai” = “It is finished,” “It is fulfilled” or “It is paid in full.” Jesus came to “finish” or “fulfill” the Old Covenant and God’s work of salvation. As he told His disciples in John 4:34, “My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work” (also see Jn17:4). His sacrifice “paid in full” the penalty for our sins.

Old Covenant Liturgical Worship	New Covenant Liturgical Worship
The centralized Church hierarchy located in Jerusalem	The centralized Church hierarchy located in Rome
The ministerial priesthood	The ministerial priesthood
Altar of sacrifice	Altar that represents the table of the Last Supper, the empty tomb, and the sacrificial altar.
Holy water for ritual purification	Holy water to signify interior purification
Incense in worship representing the prayers of the people rising up to heaven	Incense in worship representing the prayers of the people rising up to heaven
Hymns from the Psalms and music	Hymns including those from the Psalms and music
Prayers and petitions of the faithful offered to God	Prayers and petitions of the faithful offered to God
Readings from Sacred Scripture: the Torah, Writings, and the Prophets	Readings from Sacred Scripture: the Old Testament, the New Testament Gospels, Acts and the epistles
Annual Holy Feasts remembering the history of the Sinai Covenant	Annual Holy Feasts remembering the birth and history of the Church
The Tamid, a single sacrifice of two lambs daily for the atonement and sanctification of the covenant people was the most important of all sacrifices and was commanded to be a perpetual sacrifice for all generations.	The Eucharist, a perpetual sacrifice of the risen Jesus in His humanity and divinity, offered every hour of the day around the world for the people for all generations.
Confession for sin to a priest	Confession of sin to a priest
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In fact, Catholic liturgy has more elements of Old Covenant worship than modern Rabbinic Judaism. Modern Judaism has no altar, no sacrifice, and no priests.

The Six Antitheses: The six examples of Christian perfection in Matthew 5:21-48 are referred to as the six antitheses. An antithesis is a contrast or opposition of words or sentiments. Using the repeated formula “*You have heard it said / But I say to you*” and “*It was also said to you / But I say to you,*” Jesus makes the contrast between the accepted interpretation of the Mosaic law and His teaching which internalizes and intensifies the Law of Moses to yield a new standard of obedience.