**Week of June 30, 2019**

**Matthew 5:1-12**

1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: 2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, 3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. 10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 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\*. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

**Understanding the Scriptures**

In today’s lesson we look at the Beatitudes that was given by Jesus to his disciples. The exact location of the mountain from which Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount is uncertain, although it is thought today that there is a mountain ridge, Kurn Hattin, not far from Capernaum that is called the “Mount of Beatitudes”. Many believe that perhaps this the mountain from which Jesus gave His famous sermon. Interestingly the “old law” was also given from a mountain- Mount Sinai.

Jesus begins each Beatitude with “Blessed.” Which also means “happy.” In the contest blessed refers to the well-being and spiritual joy of those who share in the gift of God’s salvation. The Beatitudes are promised blessings for those who believe in Jesus. According to Matthew’s and Luke’s accounts, the audience included Jesus’ twelve disciples and perhaps other disciples and a large gather of others who could hear Jesus from a distance. The Beatitudes are summarized as follows:

1. Poor in Spirit: does not refer to one’s riches or lack thereof; refers to those who are not proud and arrogant
2. Mourn: shows godly sorrow that leads to repentance
3. Meek: has attitude of humility before God.
4. Thirsty and Hungry for God: includes those who wants more of God’s presence and seek after it.
5. Merciful: will show gentle compassion to others
6. Pure in heart: leads a life that is innocent and blameless in God’s sight
7. Peacemaker: promotes harmony and unity between others
8. Persecuted for righteousness’ sake: suffers because of his or her faith and commitment to God. God says He has a great reward for those who suffer in His name.

Christians who live with these godly characteristics show they have entered a covenant relationship with God.

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