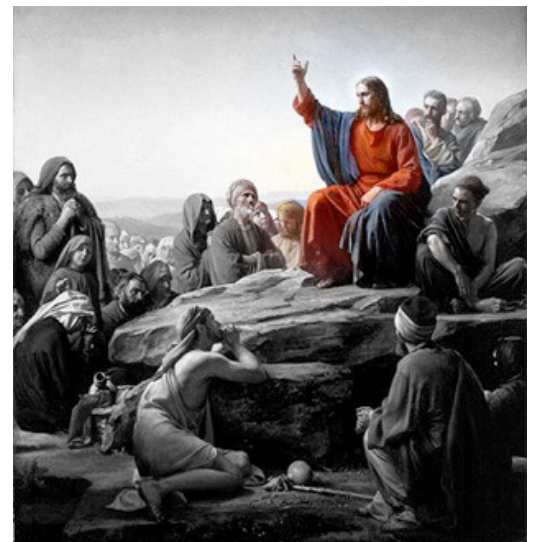


The Palace of Blessedness

INTRO: The Greatest Teacher ever was Jesus: “He spoke as never man spoke...”

- A. Matt 7:29 “For he taught them as one having authority, and not as ...[other teachers of the Law]”
 - 1. His Message was new and different from all other messages—even to this day!
 - 2. Other teachers taught that if you want to be happy—be proud of your accomplishments, get rich and become great!
- B. Jesus encouraged just the opposite: The humble-minded can receive the greatest blessings!
 - 1. But very FEW people since his day have learned to live by his teachings—even to now in our time!
 - 2. Not until the Kingdom will earth’s billions really understand and follow Jesus’ teachings.
- C. Jesus spoke first, of course, to the Jewish people. They were supposed to obey the Law of Moses.
 - 1. The Ten Commandments were given with great thunderings at Mt. Sinai. . . .
 - 2. The Law Covenant was a Law of Do’s and Don’ts—just like orders given to Servants.
 - 3. But Jesus’ Gospel Message was given for God’s family—Sons & Daughters for this Age—as well as the Kingdom Age.
- D. Trying to live the “Eight Beatitudes” gives great blessings—especially to God’s Sons & Daughters
 - 1. Each Beatitude is like a part of—a Palace!
 - 2. Come—let us visit together this Palace of Blessedness!



- I.. When we look at the Palace—what do we see? OK! —But first what can't we see that the Palace is actually standing on?
- A. What is first so very important is that our Palace is standing on a solid foundation—like a solid Rock. (“House built upon a Rock. . .”)
1. **#1** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”
 2. “Poor in spirit” means we have to first be humble.
 3. Matthew 18:4 “Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”
- B.. What is humility? (fr. *Humus* earth) It means being on the ground not only looking up to God—but able to look up to others for their good qualities and things they do.
- C. It doesn't mean we are underground in a hole—believing we are useless!
1. But very important—we are NOT to be proud of ourselves: James 4:6 “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”
 2. 1 Peter 5:5 “All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” NAS
 3. Prov 16:5 “The LORD detests [does not like at all] all the proud of heart...” (NIV)
 4. 1 John 2:16 “The pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world...”
- D. How does humility act?
1. Do I have talents that some might not have? (Where did I get them from? (*Whatever we have, it is of God's providence or favorable circumstances. It is a gift—and we are thankful.*))
 2. Are we better than others because we know God's Plan? (*Is it something we figured out?*)
 3. Do we appreciate others for their good actions and qualities—or do we think more about their weaknesses and mistakes?
 4. Are we willing to let others go first? Willing to share what we like?
- E. So our “Palace” is built on how we stand in Humility: God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. (6) Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time” 1 Pet. 5:5-6

- II. How do we come into this Palace of Blessedness? The Entrance Way. . . in other words, why do we go into the The Front Door?
- A.. When sad or hurting things happen, to whom do we go for comfort and encouragement?
1. #2 “Blessed are they that mourn [are sad and hurt], for they shall be comforted.”
 2. We all see suffering around us in the world—some far away, some closer to us, some even in our families—and ourselves.
- B. But by entering in this “Door,” we are comforted and encouraged by knowing Jesus will take care of all suffering—near and far.
1. We know he is watching over our lives and taking care every day!
 2. Jesus is like a Good Shepherd, and some days he even carries us sheep...
- C. Especially, by knowing God’s Divine Plan, we know about the healing of the nations—and the resurrection. What a comfort!
- D. How can we be comforted in things that make us sad?
- a. . . .In thinking about how Jesus has helped us in the past—and is still watching over us. . . .
 - b. . . .In telling others—families, friends at school and neighborhood—about God’s blessings to come in the Kingdom
- III. The first Room we come to is the Library! So, what do we see a lot of in this Room? Books. . .books. . . books. . . .and more books!
- A.. And books can teach. . .teach. . .teach us! If we are meek—teachable—we can learn a lot.
- B. #3 “Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.”
1. Being “meek” means being willing and eager to learn.
 2. Some books are more important and special than others.
 3. In studying God’s Word we learn how He helped and blessed others in the past—and how He will help and bless in the Kingdom.
 4. If meek, we also learn from our experiences God is teaching....

- C. What does it mean to “inherit the Kingdom”? (*The Meek of this Age inherit it now by faith. The Meek of the Kingdom will do so actually.*)

IV Then now let’s step into the Dining Room! What’s it for? Yum!

- A. # 4 “Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.”
- B. What’s it like to be really hungry? Really thirsty? (*You can’t think of anything else except getting food and/or water. . .*)
1. Do we hunger to know answers to know where we came from? Where am I going? Who am I?
 2. What can end people hurting other people? Where is God?

V Now then let’s step through the side Doors to the Courtyard Garden.

- A. Through these Side Doors we go in and out often all day long. . .to the beautiful garden of Mercy. “Mercy in—mercy out.”
- B. #5 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.”
1. We hurt and say or do bad not-so-nice things—all the time.
 2. So to be forgiven, we need—God’s forgiving mercy all the time!
- C. So we should be merciful—forgiving to others all the time—if we expect to have God’s forgiving mercy we need all the time!
1. “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass again us.”
 2. “If you forgive not others their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive your trespasses.”
 3. When’s the last time we have forgiven somebody for what they said or did to us?

VI. The Palace Window, through which we may see God is Purity of Heart.

- A. In other words our Palace has to have clean windows—pure hearts.
1. Then we can see the heavens—then we can see God—but we see now only by faith.

2. # 6 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

B. We can now see God by faith—we know He’s there watching us. We are watching Him—but He is watching over us too.

1. We see God by seeing His creation of all nature—its beauty, its details, etc. (butterfly, oak trees, waterfalls, etc.)

2. We try to be honest and truthful—with pure hearts--all the time in whatever we do.

VII. The Parlor—or Livingroom—of our Palace is for relaxing and communicating peacefully with our Friends and Family.

A. # 7 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.”

B. “Peace” means “to join,” so if we are peacemakers we join to communicate with others to show our love and help others.

1. Do we look for opportunities to join with others and help them in some way—small or big?

2. Do we try to help others who might be having trouble with each other? (*Then we are peacemakers.*)

C. Instead of complaining or fighting, are we good examples of peacemakers?

VIII. Finally, we come to the Kitchen! Good smells come out of the kitchen!!

A. But what actually happens in a kitchen? Yes, the heat is on—either from the oven or the burners on top of the stove.

B. Do we ever find ourselves in fiery trouble because we are trying to do what is right?

C. #8 ““Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. "Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” (*Eg. Daniel*)

1. Have we ever been laughed at because we are doing the right thing?

2. Do we always try to please God—even when some don’t understand?

3. Our wonderful God will “REWARD” us greatly!!

**May we all be blessed and rewarded dwelling in the Palace of
Blessedness that Jesus encouraged us to live in!**

Eight Bullet Points for 8 Beatitudes

- **Foundation (rock) underneath a Castle something like attached? HUMILITY**
- **Front (main) Door for those who are sad, hurt, etc., to come in for COMFORT**
- **Library (books) for the learning of the "meek" who will INHERIT THE EARTH**
- **Dining Room for those hungering and thirsting to be FILLED**
- **Side Doors to Courtyard Garden for always going in & out—MERCY in and MERCY out.**
- **Palace Window for clean, pure hearts to look out in faith and SEE GOD (in the heavens, beyond clouds)**
- **Parlor or Livingroom CHILDREN OF GOD who will have peaceful communications with others and while helping others**
- **Kitchen with stove fire and oven showing how when trying to do the right thing and please God—others may be laughing at us or insulting us or saying bad things against us. But our loving God in heaven will GREATLY REWARD us.**