

*Expressions
of Good
Pt. 2*

*Jesus,
The Living
Expression of
Tov*

Notice The Word “Gospel”

Two Part Greek Word

First Part = Good

Second Part = Message

The Good Message Or The Message Of Good.

Isn't The "Gospel,"
The Message About Jesus,
His Life, Death And Resurrection?

YES!!! Jesus Was The Gospel.

Jesus' Life And Ministry Personified Gospel

Matthew 11:1-5 (NIV)

After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor."

Luke 4:18-19 (NLT2)

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the LORD’s favor has come.”

Jesus Life Was An Expression Of Tov

- It is seen clearly in Matthew 8-9
 - Jesus heals the Leper
 - Jesus heals the Roman officer's servant.
 - Jesus cast out evil spirits and demons.
 - Jesus heals the sick, including Peter's mother-in-law
 - Jesus calms the storm and thus, the disciples.
 - Jesus heals a paralytic.
 - Jesus heals the bleeding woman.
 - Jesus raises a Synagogue leader's dead daughter.
 - Jesus restores sight to two blind men.

A Summary of Matthew 8-9

Matthew 9:35 (NLT2)

Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages of that area, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness.

The Sermon On The Mount Is A Summary
Of What Kingdom Living Is To Be.

The Beatitudes Illustrate
The Virtues Of The Good Life As Lived In
The Kingdom Of God.

Matthew 5:3-12 (NLT2)

“God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.”

God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.

God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.”

“God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.

God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

*God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right,
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.”*

“God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you, because you are my followers.

Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven.

And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.”

Notice How These Blessings Seem To Be
Promised To All The
“Wrong” People,
As Seen Through The Eyes Of The World.

Yet, These People Are Assigned A Special Place
In The Kingdom Of God.

Let's Look At
How These Virtues And Blessings Are A
Result Of God's Presence And Are
Modeled In The Person Of Jesus.

The Poor in Spirit

- Luke calls them “*the poor*”; Matthew focuses on their frame of mind, “*poor in spirit*.” Two parts of one reality.
- It highlights one’s utter dependence upon God. Jesus was both, Poor and Dependant
- “*Foxes have holes and birds...have nests....*” Luke 9:58
- *Jesus gave them this answer: “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.”* John 5:19 NIV

“Those Who Mourn”

- This recalls the language of Isaiah 61:2, “*to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn.*”
- The righteous suffer because the wicked prosper and because God has yet to reverse the situation.
- The disciple is blessed when truly saddened by the world's hostility and rebellion against God's will and yearns for God to make things right.
- “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...” Luke 13:34

Luke 19:41-44 (NLT2)

But as they came closer to Jerusalem and Jesus saw the city ahead, he began to weep. “How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from every side. They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not accept your opportunity for salvation.”

“The Meek”

- An Equestrian word for a powerful horse, power under control.
- The meek inherit the earth, not by violence and conquest, but by the gracious gift of God.
- *“I am meek and lowly in heart...”* Matthew 11:29 (NIV)
- *“A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory.”* Matthew 12:20 (NIV)

“Hunger And Thirst For Righteousness”

- *“My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?”* Psalm 42:2 (NIV)
- “Righteousness” is used for either following the will of God or the existence of justice for the oppressed.
- Considering the backdrop to this teaching from Isaiah 61, it is probably about justice, though they do overlap.
- Jesus stated that this is why he came. *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...”*

“The Merciful”

- The most basic reason we can have a relationship with God is because God is merciful.
- It's also the fundamental thing that God wants from us.
- *“But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”* Matthew 9:13 (NIV)
- In Matthew 25:31-46, every judgment is on a failure to show mercy.
- Jesus was, and is, God's ultimate expression of Mercy.

“The Pure In Heart”

- Though, in the second group of four, this one, is both about our relationship with God and with others.
- A pure heart describes one’s innermost being and motivations. A person with a pure heart possesses an undivided loyalty, acts with sincerity of purpose, absolute integrity and transparent honesty.
- Those with a pure heart experience God in the most intimate ways available. Jesus personified this quality, and is one with the Father. See 1 Peter 2:24.

“The Peacemakers”

- The Hebrew word, *shalom*, carries the meaning of well-being, or wholeness, as well as, the absence of hostility. The Greek word, *eirēnē*, carries similar meanings, climaxing in the peace the Messiah brings.
- The blessing is on those who actively pursue the restoration of wholeness and well-being in a world shattered by hostility.
- That’s the very essence of what Jesus came to do. By joining in that mission, we join the family business.

“Persecuted For Doing Right”

- Like the “*poor*,” those *persecuted* are also blessed because they participate in the kingdom of God.
- Verse 11 expands on verse 10 and defines what kind of “*righteousness*” is persecuted in this context.
- It is behavior that identifies with Jesus and his mission. It is that for which Jesus suffered and was ultimately crucified.
- The blessing is that the persecuted stand with a long line of faithful servants in the kingdom of heaven.

By God's Grace
These Virtues Reflect
The Transforming Power Of God's Reign
Over His People.

They Challenge Us, As People Of God, To
Cultivate These Counter-cultural Qualities
Reflected In The Beatitudes.

This Week's Assignments:

1. Pray the beatitudes each day. Pray about each individual virtue, that it will be evident in your life.
2. Do something counter-culture! Be salt and light, “*love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!*”

1 Peter 2:21 (NLT2)

*For God called you to do good,
even if it means suffering, just as
Christ suffered for you.*

*He is your example,
and you must follow in his steps.*