

Shadows of Christ & His Bride

Lesson #40

Beatitude #4

Nov. 19, 2025

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount speaks of kingdom life, and what the kingdom is like.

It shows how a person who is actually in a right relationship with God should conduct his life.

➤ *Not to GET eternal life, but to DISPLAY eternal life.*

Matt. 6:9 Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.

It is a passionate call for God to be glorified in our lives, so the world can see God through us.

While each Beatitude can stand on its own, they aren't merely a collection of unrelated statements. They are linked in an unbroken chain, each one building on the previous truth.

Sequence: Blessed are the poor in spirit: My condition: I am spiritually bankrupt.

- It doesn't look to externals...rather it looks to internals.
- Behold the Holiness of God.

Blessed are they that mourn: Contrition: I see what I am, weep over it & repent.

- Examine myself against God's Word.
- My heart is prone to wander. There is a war inside of me.
- I am broken because of my sin, yet I possess joy because of who God is.
- The Holy Spirit comforts my heart.

Blessed are the meek: Submit and yield to the will of God. Have a new master.

- You trust in the Lord rather than trust your own abilities and powers.
- Humble, gentle, not aggressive: trusting and waiting on the Lord to act.
- Content to be a servant of the Lord.
- But the meek person is just humbled that God has had mercy on them.

Rom. 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.*

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

The servants of God's kingdom desperately needed the Heavenly Perspective and Hope Of An Eternal Inheritance that Christ presented in the Beatitudes.

Matt. 5:4 Blessed are the meek, for they shall Inherit The Earth.

Ps. 37:11 But the meek shall inherit the earth,

And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Ps. 37:9b But those who wait on the Lord, they shall inherit the earth.

Wait: Ps. 37:5-8 Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring *it* to pass.

Commit = 1556 galal = roll onto; act of surrender

➤ Life's direction or burden is rolled from human shoulders onto the covenant-keeping God.

⁶ He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

➤ God will openly reveal the righteousness and justice of those who trust in Him, making it as clear as the sun at noonday.

⁷ Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.

⁸ Cease from anger and forsake wrath; Do not fret—it only causes harm.

➤ a warning against letting anger fester, as it can lead to destructive actions.

➤ Focus on trusting in God and waiting patiently for Him to handle things.

The Meek: Trust in God Commit their way to God

They possess a steady calm that comes from knowing that God is omnipotent, that He has their affairs under His control, and that He is gracious and will work things out for their good.

Meek people have a quiet steadiness about their lives in the midst of upheaval.

Meekness does not give way to anger and fretfulness when faced with opposition and setbacks.

A Divine promise: Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the Earth.

Ps. 37:29 The righteous shall inherit the land, And dwell in it forever.

Ps. 37:34 Wait on the Lord, and keep His way, and He shall exalt you to inherit the land
When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.

God's Original Purpose: God gave the earth to man. [Ps. 115:16]

God gave man dominion over the earth, the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air,
and the animals. God gave man dominion over the whole earth. [Gen. 1:26]

A Future Reward with the full inheritance realized after Christ's Second Coming
when He will establish His Millennial Reign on a refreshed and renewed earth.

Restoration of Dominion: This future rulership is seen as the Restoration of the Dominion
God originally gave Adam & Eve in Genesis.

It is a promise of a greater inheritance than earthly possessions or power.

Matt. 6:9-10 Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven.

Rev. 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying,
"The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ;
and He will reign forever and ever."

Priests and Rulers: The faithful will be made both priests and kings,
ruling under Christ's authority.

Rev. 5:10 You have made them to be a kingdom [of royal subjects] and priests to our God;
and they will reign on the earth."

Authority: Matt. 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant:
thou hast been faithful over a few things,
I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Truth: Meekness is not merely a temporary strategy for hostile times;

it is the very posture that fits believers to reign with Christ in the age to come.

Following God's Will: The true inheritance is not just about being saved,

but also about being a faithful disciple who actively lives according to God's will.

This involves actions like forgiveness, serving others, and making sacrifices for one's faith.

Entering vs. inheriting: Entering heaven, which is granted through salvation, justification.

Inheriting the kingdom signifies a greater degree of reward or a specific role within it.

Heb. 11:6 But without faith *it is impossible to please Him*, for he who comes to God

must believe that He is, and *that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

Rev. 21:7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and

I will be his God and he shall be My son.

David Jeremiah: Serving God involves narrowing our focus

to those things with the highest eternal value.

Verses to be Firmly Rooted:

I Cor. 15:58 *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable,*

always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Col. 2:6-7 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in Him [reflecting His character in the things you do and say—living lives that lead others away from sin], ⁷ having been deeply rooted [in Him] and *now being continually* built up in Him and [becoming increasingly more] established in your faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing in it with gratitude.

Eph. 3:16-19 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. ¹⁸And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Meekness: Submit To the Word of God. Receive the Word of God.

Be Continuously Filled with the Spirit of God.

Out of these roots come the shoot of the fourth beatitude—

a hunger and thirst for righteousness.

God uses the roots of sensing your need to produce the shoot of longing for righteousness.

When the roots of the first three beatitudes are nourished,

a desire for righteousness will grow.

It reveals the heart of true discipleship. Jesus promises satisfaction not to the self-righteous, but to those who deeply long for God's holiness in their lives.

This longing is a sign of spiritual life and a key to growth, joy, and transformation in Christ.

Matt. 5:6 "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness:
for they shall be filled."

Notice: Beginning with this beatitude we begin to turn away from an examination of self and to God. The practice of it is the key to all the others. Unless we hunger and thirst after God's righteousness, we shall never know the fullness of all He has promised with which to bless us.

Kent Hughes: Jesus is far from recommending a genteel desire for spiritual nourishment, but rather a starvation for righteousness, a desperate hungering to be conformed to God's will.

Powerful Truth: Unless we hunger after righteousness we cannot obtain it.

Thomas Watson: "Desire is the best discovery of a Christian. What you desire explains your heart. Do you desire to be like Christ? The spiritual appetite that Jesus Christ calls for is the desire to be like Christ, not simply have the benefits of Christ. It Is The Desire:

- to have Christ above all that the world offers.
- for Christ that does not give up or abate because of difficulties or demands.
- for Christ that does not faint at the cost of true discipleship.

When we are born-again, we have Positional Righteousness.

- Our legal status before God is changed from guilty to righteous.

It will never change even when we fail because it's not based on our performance but on Christ.

Practical Righteousness or Sanctification: Growing into Christ's image by the Spirit's Power.

Titus 2:11-12 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.

- This is the righteousness to which Jesus refers in Matt. 5:6

Jesus uses the accusative case for hunger and thirst: an intense, all-encompassing desire for it.

Intense desire: It signifies a total and urgent longing,
suggesting a complete satisfaction is sought.

Ps. 81:10 I, the LORD, am your God, Who brought you up from the land of Egypt;

Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.

I Peter 1:15-16 But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves in all your conduct [be set apart from the world by your godly character and moral courage] because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY FOR I AM HOLY." [AMP]

Sinclair Ferguson: Growth in grace is not optional for the Christian.

It is a necessity, and it is fed by continual intake of the Word of God.

Jerry Bridges We must be ruthless in our discipline to saturate our minds with scripture.
or we will gradually absorb the godless thinking of the culture around us.

I Pet. 2:2 Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk

so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation.

Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness. [NLT]

Ps. 119:20 My soul is crushed with longing after Thine ordinances at all times.

Crushed [#1638 Garas] Desire for God: The psalmist's "crushed" soul portrays yearning so deep it feels physically grinding. True covenant faith does not consider the statutes of the LORD a casual interest but an appetite that grates against the inner person until satisfied. Garas illustrates God's sovereign use of pressure—whether produced by longing or by loss—to shape hearts for His glory. In Scripture the same grinding that scatters pride grinds open the soul to thirst for righteous judgments.

Ps. 119:33-40 A Cry From My Heart

It is the cry of my heart to follow You. It is the cry of my heart to be close to You.

Reminder: It is one thing to start well, it is another thing to run well for a season,
but it is altogether something else to finish well.

Phil. 1:6 He "who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." However, this promise does not negate our responsibility to be faithful in our service to Christ until the very end. Our sanctification is a divine/human partnership.

7 Ps. 119:33-40 is section "heh." This text is unique among the 22 sections of Psalm 119.

- It is the only stanza that contains a petition in every verse...
- that seek the Lord's help in living well and finishing well for God's glory and our good.

Spurgeon: A sense of dependency and a consciousness of extreme need pervade this section, which is all made up of prayer and plea.

- My Lord & My God, Make Me Godly. Unless You do your work in me, it is beyond me.

<u>TEACH</u> me, O LORD, the <u>WAY</u> of YOUR STATUES	And I will <u>Keep</u> It <u>To The End</u> .
<u>GIVE</u> me <u>UNDERSTANDING</u>	That I may <u>KEEP</u> Your Law & <u>OBSERVE</u> It With my <u>WHOLE HEART</u>
<u>LEAD</u> me in the <u>PATH</u> Of YOUR COMMANDMENTS	For I <u>DELIGHT</u> in it.
<u>INCLINE</u> my HEART to YOUR TESTIMONIES	And not to selfish <u>GAIN</u> .
<u>TURN</u> my eyes from looking at Worthless things:	And Give me <u>LIFE</u> in <u>YOUR WAYS</u> .
<u>CONFIRM</u> to your servant <u>YOUR PROMISE</u>	That You may be feared.
<u>TURN</u> away the reproach that I dread	For YOUR RULES are GOOD
Behold, I <u>LONG</u> for YOUR PRECEPTS	In Your Righteousness, give me LIFE

Each of the verbs in the first clause is the cause of the action in the second clause.

Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes" is the cause of "And I will Keep It To The End.

Give me understanding is the cause of:

That I may KEEP Your Law & OBSERVE It with my whole heart.

Each of the petitions is a prayer for God's grace as we undertake an obedient life.

- Give me understanding: Keep me going.
- Incline my heart toward your statutes Give me a push
- Turn my eyes away from worthless things the prayer of someone who has not kept her eyes on the prize and has strayed off the path.

Ps. 119:33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes,

And I will [steadfastly] observe it to the end.

- The psalmist did not want to know a body of truth. He wanted to know a way of life.

The Teaching Aim: "I will keep it to the end."

D.L. Moody: "God did not give us the Scriptures to increase our knowledge, but to change our lives." The goal of spiritual instruction is an active & persistent obedient life to the end.

Work in me by teaching me. When you do, I will be empowered by You to live Your way.

The more we know, the more we shall desire to know; we shall beg a daily supply of grace, as well as of bread; and a taste of "the cluster of Eshcol" will make us long after the land of Canaan.

W. Wilson: There is a way marked out by God's own appointment for all His people to walk in, and in which to persevere.

Ps. 119:34 Give me understanding [a teachable heart and the ability to learn],

that I may keep Your law; And observe it with all my heart.

Key: You need both instruction and understanding. A request for spiritual illumination

It is of little value to have sight without insight.

Revelation needs illumination that leads to application and results in transformation.

John 8:12 I am the light of the world; he that follows Me shall not walk in darkness,
but shall have the light of life.

The Holy Spirit enlightens God's people to comprehend the written Word of God [II Cor. 2:12-14]. He desires that we not only obey the Word externally, but that we obey with inward delight and wholeness of heart.

Remember: Service without the heart—the whole heart—is hateful in His sight.

A Request For Spiritual Transformation. He recognizes he needs instruction and illumination.

- But even those are worthless without transformation.

Ps. 119:35 Make Me Walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it.

Make Me Walk 1869 darak: traces the movement from God's action to the psalmist's ability:

- "He makes my feet like the feet of a deer... He trains my hands for battle."
- The repeated dāraḵ terms show that disciplined skill is a gift, not self-generated.
- Spiritual warfare depends on divine training.
- Skill, strength, and victory are gifts to be stewarded, never grounds for boasting.

Ps. 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm 23:3 He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

The path to which the psalmist refers is a long-established, visible, well-worn pathway. This is the pathway of obedience that all the obedient saints of God have traveled. It is old and sure.

Jer. 6:16 The LORD said to his people: "You are standing at the crossroads. So consider your path. Ask where the old, reliable paths are. Ask where the path is that leads to blessing and follow it. If you do, you will find rest for your souls." But they said, "We will not follow it!"

God's Instruction: Pause and consider the right path, symbolized by the "ancient paths," which represents the way of obedience and righteousness established by God.

God's Promise: The reward for walking in this good way is "rest for your souls".

Psalm 1:1-2 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the Law of the LORD, and on His Law he meditates day and night.

Having asked for instruction, illumination, and transformation with his first three requests, the psalmist asks for some specific things to be transformed. A Divine Reset

1. Ps. 119:36 Incline my heart to Your testimonies and not to dishonest gain.

Spurgeon: The leaning of the heart is the way in which the life will lean.

Our heart frequently needs a "divine reboot" that we might choose to order our steps in a manner that is pleasing to the Lord and not pursuing the path of this passing world.

Incline: 05186 natah means to stretch out, to extend; to pay attention; to bend toward
This prayer reflects a deep sense of humility and dependence on God.

The contrast between "thy testimonies" and "covetousness" highlights the dichotomous nature of the human heart. It underscores the constant battle between the desire for spiritual fulfillment and the allure of materialism and worldly pleasures.

The love of money is a root sin that produces destructive fruit in your life.

The only way to keep your heart from it is to pray to God to incline your heart.

William MacDonald: "It is a miracle of grace that takes the love of money from a man and replaces it with a love for the Bible."

Incline my heart unto thy testimonies expresses the Psalmist's longing to be drawn towards God's truth and righteousness. He is seeking a transformation of his innermost being, a redirection of his affections and desires towards the things of God.

When we desire God and his Word above all things, these prayers become the cry of our own hearts. We must long for it. We must seek it with all our heart.

Matt. 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

Spurgeon: Holiness of heart is the cure for covetousness. What a blessing it is that we may ask the Lord even for an inclination. Our wills are free, and yet without violating their liberty, grace can incline us in the right direction.

He desires transformation. 1. Incline my heart.

2. Ps. 119:37 Turn my eyes away from looking at what is worthless and
revive me in Your ways.

➤ to quicken — to give life or to sustain life.

He is asking to be made alive through God's ways. "Through Your Word, help me to see the things that are worthless and to pursue only the things that are of value eternally."

John Phillips If you are struggling against sin, be hopeful for two reasons:

1. The struggle against sin is a mark of your salvation. This is the fight of the redeemed.

2. There is help in that fight against sin.

Makarios [Blessed] announces Grace. Scripture links blessedness with concrete obedience:
hearing, doing, giving, enduring, and watching.

➤ Motivates discipleship by promise of Divine approval & joy.

Matt. 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

<u>Prayer of a Righteous Man:</u>	Teach me	Illumine me	Make me Walk
Transform me	Incline my heart		Turn my eyes away

Some enroll in God's school and make progress but fail to persevere to graduation.

The psalmist did not want to be a spiritual dropout. He did not want trials, hardships, or challenges to prevent him from finishing what he started.

He prays God would grant two things that would enable him to persevere.

1. Ps. 119:38 Establish Your Word to Your servant, as that which produces reverence for You.

Establish Your Word: To make a promise or teaching firm, true, and unshakable, often as a plea for God to confirm His promises in one's life and to be spiritually stable and free from doubt.

➤ A request for God to fulfill His promises, confirm His truth in a person's heart, and make His word an unshakeable foundation for their life and resilient against hardship.

➤ To provide stability and guidance: God's word be so solidly planted in a person's mind and life that doubt and skepticism cannot dislodge it.

➤ To foster a deep respect for God: A desire to cultivate reverence and awe for God's holiness and authority, aligning with His will.

Spurgeon: Make me to know how firm, how true and real it is, for I would love it more and more. I believe it, I am devoted to thy fear, but I long to be still further established in the faith.

The Psalmist wants to be established in the Word and fear God so he will be kept from a life of disgrace and shamefulness.

2. Ps. 119:39 Take away my disgrace which I dread, For Your judgments are good.

➤ Disgrace, Shame = #2781. cherpah shame, disgrace

It could be the shame of living a life of ungodliness that undermines his testimony of God.

➤ the "reproach" of bringing dishonor upon the name of his God,

It could be the shame that unbelievers hurl at him because he is living a genuinely godly life.

➤ He dreads and is fearful of the mocking that will come for his faithfulness.

The one who is mocked for his faith can remain steadfast when he gets weary of living righteously by remembering that all God's Word is good and here will be good provision for those who endure to the end.

➤ Cherpah ultimately magnifies the Lord who exchanges disgrace for glory.

The Psalmists desires and cries out for God to do His work in him.

Ps. 119:40 Behold, I long for Thy precepts. Revive me through Thy righteousness.

Spurgeon: The precepts are grievous to the ungodly. Therefore, when we are so changed as to long for them we have clear evidence of conversion, and we may safely conclude that He who has begun the good work will carry it on. It is the Holy Spirit who can pour new life into us; let us not cease crying to him. Let the life we already possess show itself by longing for more.

Obedient disciples of Jesus always want more. Yet, they are completely satisfied.

How can you be constantly hungry and completely satisfied at the same time?

In our walk with God, we hunger and thirst for righteousness with an insatiable appetite.

He meets our hunger and thirst with divine satisfaction.

We experience His touch, His love, His peace, joy, rest, and contentment.

It is so satisfying, it makes us hunger for even more. Our hunger for God and His life is met with this wonderful satisfaction which creates a greater hunger for God and His life.

Blessed is the one who continually longs to know Christ's righteousness experientially and walk steadfastly conformed to His will as a starving man longs for food and

a man perishing of thirst longs for water, for that one will be truly satisfied, fully filled.

It is important to seek God and ask Him to increase my hunger until it is an intense craving.

When the prodigal was merely hungry, he went to feed on the husk of what the pigs were eating. But when he was starving, when it became intense, he was driven to the father.

We need the attitude of the psalmist Asaph in Psalm 73:25-26 who cried...

Whom have I in heaven but Thee?

And besides Thee, I desire nothing on earth. [*hungering, thirsting*]

My flesh and my heart may fail,

But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. [*fully satisfied*]