

STUDY GUIDE

for

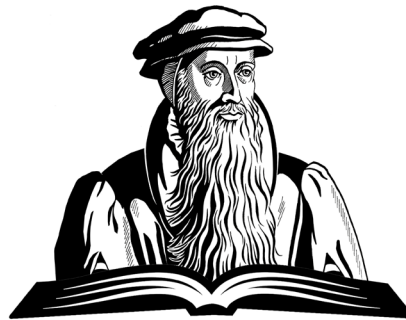
The Beatitudes

A VIDEO LECTURE SERIES

by Rev. A. T. Vergunst

Lecture #1

A General Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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STUDY GUIDE FOR

The Beatitudes

10 Lectures

by Rev. A. T. Vergunst

1. A General Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount
2. A General Introduction to the Beatitudes
3. Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit
4. Blessed Are They That Mourn
5. Blessed Are the Meek
6. Blessed Are They Which Do Hunger and Thirst After Righteousness
7. Blessed Are the Merciful
8. Blessed Are the Pure in Heart
9. Blessed Are the Peacemakers
10. Blessed Are They Which Are Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake



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The Beatitudes

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Lecture #1

A General Introduction
to the Sermon on the Mount

Scripture Text

“And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: and he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

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

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake:

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

—Matthew chapter 5, verses 1 through 12

Key Points

1. Context of Matthew’s Gospel

- a. It was written to Jewish believers who were under great persecution.
- b. Matthew presents Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of Messianic prophecies.
- c. Matthew emphasized Jesus’ words, including 6 gospel sermons.
- d. His common theme is the kingdom of heaven.

3. The Sermon on the Mount is called “the key of the whole Bible” because it connects the Old and New Testaments.

4. Jesus Christ presents himself as both the Lord and Savior of the kingdom of heaven.
 - a. What the kingdom of heaven is.
5. To be part of his kingdom is to be united to Jesus Christ by faith.
 - a. A true Christian can be defined by the opening verses of the Sermon on the Mount.
6. Jesus is teaching the absolute necessity of regeneration.
7. Jesus addresses the error of superficial religion, which looks good on the outside but is not right in the heart. We see the same error today.
 - a. The heart must first be changed, trusting in Jesus Christ for salvation.
8. In the Beatitudes, Jesus gives us an unmatched model of genuine Christian experience.
 - a. A variety of examples from the Scriptures of the experience of conversion.
 - b. No matter your conversion experience, every true believer can see themselves somewhere in the Beatitudes.
 - c. The renewed heart comes first, then the life of the Christian follows.

Review Questions

1. Why is it important to understand the context of a portion of Scripture?

2. What is the basic context of Matthew's Gospel?

3. What are the characteristics of Matthew's Gospel?

4. What is the context of the Sermon on the Mount?

5. What does Jesus mean by “the kingdom”? What is he thinking of when he speaks about the kingdom of God? Where does the church fit in this?

6. What is a true Christian? Is the Christian life only about knowing things?

7. How do the Beatitudes show us the absolute necessity of regeneration?

8. What did Jesus teach about superficiality or surface religion? What is genuine Christianity?

9. Jesus gave us an unmatched model in the Beatitudes by which to examine the genuine Christian experience. How do we understand this and apply it to ourselves?

10. Why must a man be born again and given a renewed heart before living the Christian life?

Personal Applications

1. Think of the issue of superficiality, or surface religion, in our lives today. How do we see this lived out in people's lives? Jesus said, "Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:20). What does he mean by this?

2. Can you identify yourself in the Beatitudes?
