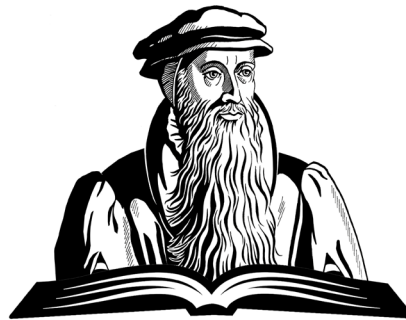


STUDY GUIDE
for
The Beatitudes
A VIDEO LECTURE SERIES

by Rev. A. T. Vergunst

Lecture #2

*A General Introduction to
the Beatitudes*



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



STUDY GUIDE FOR
The Beatitudes

by Rev. A. T. Vergunst

Lecture #2

A General Introduction
to the Beatitudes

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. Jesus is the chief of all prophets, the Master Teacher.
 - a. What he teaches, but also how he teaches; in a surprising contrast.
 - b. Jesus speaks profound things in a very simple way.
 - c. In these seven statements, Jesus unites all his people from all over the world, down through the ages. They describe the character of all true believers.
 - d. Jesus was very different from the Messiah they expected. He was a Prophet, a King, and a Priest. He showed them that the kingdom of God was different from what they expected.
 - e. The people were astonished at Jesus' teachings, as one having authority.

2. Each Beatitude has a strong and purposeful emphasis on our spiritual being.
 - a. Kingdom life is an elevated life of godly character that reflects the glory of the King.
3. All seven Beatitudes form together a flawless portrait of a born-again sinner.
4. Each of the seven Beatitudes strongly emphasizes our spiritual being.
5. Together, the seven Beatitudes form a flawless portrait of a born-again sinner. Even their order is purposeful.
6. The seven Beatitudes are structured like a ribcage.
 - a. The first three are like ribs on one side, the last three are like ribs on the other side, and the fourth is like the breastbone.
7. The Beatitudes show us that the work of salvation is Trinitarian—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
8. The Beatitudes reveal the experiential nature of salvation: the power of God’s truth changes the heart of a sinner and brings repentance.
9. The Beatitudes support the three main requirements for salvation in the gospel: repentance, faith, and obedience.
10. In Greek, each Beatitude is in the present tense with ongoing activity.
11. Each Beatitude begins with the words “Blessed are,” followed by a description and a promise.
12. The last two appended statements describe the world’s rejection of Christ’s work and Christ’s people.

Review Questions

1. What are the amazing things about the Sermon on the Mount?

2. In Jesus’ days on earth, what were the expectations of most Jewish people about the Messiah? How did Jesus correct their thinking?

3. How do the seven Beatitudes emphasize our spiritual being, rather than our physical being?

4. Please explain how the seven Beatitudes together form a flawless portrait of a born-again sinner.

5. How did Rev. Vergunst compare the seven Beatitudes with a man's ribcage?

6. Explain how each of the seven Beatitudes reveals aspects of the Trinity.

7. What is meant by the terms "experiential salvation" and experiential Christianity"? How do you see that the Beatitudes are related to the experiential nature of salvation?

8. What are the three main requirements for salvation in the gospel? How do the Beatitudes support this teaching?

9. Can you name the other observations taught in this lecture?

10. What is the significance of the two appended statements? How do they affect Christians today?

Personal Applications

1. The seven Beatitudes are said to emphasize our spiritual being rather than our physical being. How does this affect your Christian life?

2. “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled” (verse 6). Why is this called “the heartbeat of the genuine Christian”?
