**“JUST THE BASICS”**

**INTRODUCTION:**

 1) scripture – Mathew 5:1-2…

 -a as Christ came to set forth “the kind of people” acceptable to God,

 here upon a mountain side, “the greatest truths” are presented in a simple fashion

 -b. With so many “seminars” TODAY on “how to become wealthy”

 “to be bill free”

 “establish a fulfilling retirement fund”

 2) Christ comes to set forth “how to establish an eternal reward”

 ***“here are the basics we cannot move forward without”***

 3)Some translations set forth the word “BLESSED”, while some translate this Greek

 word as “HAPPY”… either is fine as long as we truly understand the meaning,

 and that is ***“spiritual prosperity towards salvation”***

 “spiritually prosperous are you **if**…”

 -1. So not just *“happy”* as we might usually think in our language

 -2. Rather ***“prosperous towards God”*** as we fulfil these traits

 -a. traits which mature us before God

 -b. not by doing these things we are Christians, rather,

 because we are Christians we should be doing these things

 we should practice these items

 4) The “setting” in the world which Christ came into abounded in:

 -a. pride in wealth, social stature, culture

 -b. outright sin as a way of life

 -c. kindness and mercy seen as weaknesses immorality, corrupt gov. leaders,

 -d. military power claimed all under them slavery, abuse of the poor,

 -e. “might was what was RIGHT” man-made religious views

 5) FAR DIFFERENT THAN WHAT THE WORLD ESPOUSED,

 these “eight beatitudes” set forth the  **BASICS** for Christian **GROWTH**

 1) Therefore let us notice:

 **FIRST – BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT—**

 1) Matt.5:3 –

 -a. “spiritually insufficient”

 -b. those who see that without God “there is nothing”

 -c. acknowledging God’s greatness, and then “our place”… Psa.8:3-4

 Isa.66:2

 2) that understanding by God’s grace, HE acted so that we could be “eternally saved”-Tit.2:11

3) by ourselves, we could do nothing to be saved…- Isa.64:6

 -a. Jer.10:23

 -b. “there must be an emptying of self before a filling of God”

 4) the attitude we need as set forth in Luke 18:13

 5)“humility”…

 -a. I Cor.1:26…

 wise according to the flesh

 mighty because they see “no need for God”

 noble

 -b. I Cor.3:18

 -c. Psalms 39:4

 6) James 4:10 …..to realize ourselves, our need as we stand before God

 7. Psalms 39:7.. “And now Lord, for what do I wait, my hope is in You…”

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 **SECOND—BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN—**

 1) Matt.5:4 –

 -a. not referring to mourning for “our loses” in this life

 -b. of jobs, death of friends or family, loss of prosperity

 “many people mourn for many reasons in this world,

 but only “one mourning” relates to our eternity—**a sorrow for sin**

 2) “in a spiritual direction”-

 -a. those who understand that **sin** brought our **separation from God**(majority don’t care)

 -b. a sorrow for sins that are committed

 -c. unless there is “sorrow”, things will simply **be** **repeated**

 -d. II Cor. 7:9-10 – true sorrow leads to repentance(turning away from sin)

 -1-.understanding the problem sin brought into my life

 -2-. It’s taking away my promise of eternal life – Isa.59:1-2

 -3-. guilt for wrong done

 3) based upon verse 3, and understanding our “need for God”,

 then there is mourning for sin WHICH WILL CAUSE A DIVISION

 A SEPERATION

 4) Isa.1:18.. but God IS WILLING to “forgive” those who “mourn for their sins”

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 **THIRD – BLESSED ARE THE MEEK –**

 1) Matt.5:5 –

 -a. “meek not meaning weak”

 -b. a willingness to accept guidance – “power under control”

 -c. opposite thought being…………”no one tells me what to do”

 “I will follow my OWN thoughts”

 2) therefore James says..

 **“receive with *meekness* the implanted word whereby you may save your soul”**

 -1-. acknowledging something superior

 -2-. accepting that I am under authority IF I desire the goodness offered

 -3-. an “attitude” manifested by our actions

 -a. an attitude of humility, willingness to acknowledge authority

 -b. everything cannot be “just my way”- Psalms 51:17

 3) acceptance that God is the authority,

 and my obedience MUST follow for the promised blessings – Matt.6:33

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 **FOURTH – BLESSED ARE THEY WHO HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS—**

 1)Matt.5:6 –

 -a. so easily understood

 -b. Pro.27:7

 -1-. The satisfied seek not the Gospel – they have careers, entertainment,

 sports, everyday activities

 -2-. The Gospel is sweet to the hungry –

 there is salvation, coming judgment, heaven

 2) A seeking to demonstrate that our faithfulness is unto God..

 -a. desire to be found faithful

 -b. looking into the law and following the instructions – I John 3:7

 3) A desire to “meet God’s approval” – Phil.3:8-9

 4) that we might control our lives that all looks to God and His will – II Cor.10:5

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 **FIFTH-- BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL—**

 1)Matt.6:7 –

 -a. often described as “active compassion”

 -1-. not just seeing a need that others have

 -2-. but it is the “acting to fulfill”

 **ILL.** compassion is seeing a little cat on the side of the road and having sorrow

 mercy is seeing the kitten, picking it up and caring for it

 2) Eph.2:4…not just compassion, but “mercy was shown”

 -a. I Pet.1:3

3) As we see/ hear off needs of others having troubles..

 is there an offer of food, clothing, possibly a place to stay

4) It is the “passing on” of what we have been granted

 -a. the one beatitude in which we will receive as we have as well given to others

 -b.”blessed are the **merciful,** for they shall obtain **mercy**”

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 **SIXTH- BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART—**

 1)Matt.5:8 –

 -a. “defined as “singleness of heart” as one seeking to set aside the corrupt, deceitful

 -b. fill the voids with those things which are pure, clean, directed towards God

 -c. Luke 11:24-26

 -1-. besides cleaning out the clutter

 -2-. must fill it with the good

 OR

 It just fills right back in with the corrupt

 2) When we hear the word **“pure”** ??

 -a. that which is not polluted

 not corrupted

 without stains

 -b. although “stained by life here”, the ability to “clear up the imperfections”

 has been granted –

 -a. obedience to bible teachings- I Pet.1:22

 -b. keeping a watch on what “enters our minds”

 Pro.4:23

 3) we “allow what enters” our hearts(minds)

 And what enters shapes/molds our character – Luke 6:45

**Old saying..**

 “you may not be what you think you are,

 but you are what you think”

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 **SEVENTH—BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS—**

 1)Matt.5:9 –

 -a. not talking about joining national committees,

 seeking world peace among other countries

 (world peace **means** **nothing** towards eternal salvation)

 (if we could unite all the Middle East countries, it has nothing to do with salvation)

 -b. Rom.12:18 – although we should seek to be at peace with others, IT IS NOT A PRIORITY!

 whether others like me or not does not determine “my salvation”

 -c. Matt.10:34…if we are to be peace-makers

 and Christ came not to bring peace “peace-makers” refers **not** to world peace

 2) this “peace” is that which is between “man and God” (spiritual peace-salvation)

 -a. thru teaching others the plan of salvation – Col.1:20

 -b. by telling others about Christ/Christianity –

 -c. people have to change their lives—be forgiven – James 3:18

 3) Blessed are those who seek to unite man who is separated from God, thru sin

 Acts 17:30 – declaring unto all…

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 **EIGHTH—BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE—**

 1)Matt.5:10-fff

 -a. many different ways insults/persecution comes forth today

 verbal insults

 job position increases

 “just not invited to other’s functions”

 -b. as “outsiders” that would not fit in”—AND “we should not WANT to fit in”

 2) II Timothy 3:12

 3) Acts 14:22

 4) James 5:10

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**CONCLUSION:**

1) The Beatitudes are those qualities that we should be “growing in”

 BECAUSE we are Christians

2) It must not be that this culture,

 this society,

 this world molds us so that “we fit in” FOR WE NEVER WILL!

 **IF—WE---FIT---IN-----------------WERE—DOING—SOMETHING--WRONG**

3) Romans 12:1-3