



**Sunday, September 25, 2010: The Character of the Blessed**

**Scripture: Psalm 1; Matthew 5.1-2**

**Speaker: Joe Boot**

**Sermon Notes:**

1. Psalm 1 and the beatitudes of Matthew 5.3-12 define the life of the blessed.
2. The Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7) is a Christian manifesto.
3. The Gospel would be powerfully declared to the world if all Christians lived according to the Sermon on the Mount.
4. The Sermon on the Mount is an exposition of the Law of Moses. Jesus goes up on the mountain as the new and greater Moses.
5. The character of the blessed in Matthew 5 echoes the descriptions of the blessed in the Psalms (cf. Ps 37.11, 22 and Matt 5.5).
6. To understand the significance of the word “blessed” in the New Testament, we must appreciate its Hebrew connotations.
7. In Hebrew, to bless means to bend the knee. When we bless God we surrender all things to Him (Ps 103.1). When God blesses us, he bends the knee and condescends to help us.
8. To be blessed is to be satisfied as God is satisfied.
9. The reward of the blessed is citizenship in the Kingdom of God. Blessedness is the possession of those who belong to the Kingdom.
10. Philosophers throughout history have sought to define happiness in various ways, many of which assume a pessimistic view of the world, and all of which fall short of the biblical account.
11. The biblical character of the blessed is never celebrated these days.
12. The true nature of blessedness is the way of the cross.
13. Those who kneel before the cross of Christ in repentance and faith are blessed.

14. Those to take the yoke of Christian discipleship are blessed (Matt 11.28-30).
15. The blessed are obedient. Holiness is happiness. Surrender is victory. Repentance is liberty. Death to self is life.
16. Those who follow Jesus in the way of the cross are blessed because God keeps his promises.
17. The blessedness of the Psalm 1 and Matthew 5.3-12 is a statement of fact, a present reality.

**Application Questions:**

1. How is blessedness/happiness defined in our culture today? How is it characterized in the media?
2. Why do you think Eastern views of happiness (i.e., emptiness or nothingness) are so popular these days?
3. In what ways does the character of the blessed manifest itself in our culture/society today?