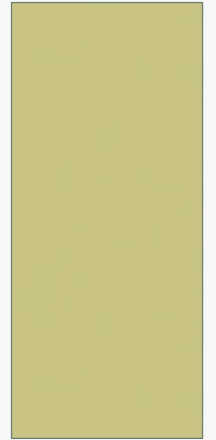




MATTHEW 5

SERMON ON THE MOUNT



INTRODUCTION

- Background to the Sermon on the Mount
- 4:23-5:2
- first word that Jesus utters is “makarioi” (Μακάριοι) in Greek (plural in form)



OLD TESTAMENT BACKGROUND

- The idea of a blessed life is rooted in Old Testament concept of blesses and curses.
- Blessings from God closely associated with ethical choices to honor Him.
- ASHRE ('aš·rê, אַשְׁרֵי) Hebrew for “blessed” means the state of a soul when heart, life, love & commitment are choices made to honor Him.



ESSENCE OF LIVING A BLESSED LIFE

- Prologue to the Sermon—function and form important for understanding the impact of the Beatitudes
- Sermon on the Mount highlights
- No surprise that the Sermon commences this way—Old Testament concept of blessings with God.
- Certainly Jesus is the epitome of such a life



THREE-FOLD AFFIRMATION OF JESUS' AUTHORITY

- He sat down
- He opened his mouth
- He taught them saying...



ESSENCE OF CHRISTIAN FAITH & LIFE

- Central document of the Christian faith.
- John R. W. Stott—Christian Counterculture
- “Kingdom of heaven for Matthew is present reign of God in human heart.”
- Time-wise
- History of its interpretation



THOMPSON'S SUGGESTIONS ON FUNCTION

- Entrance requirements for the kingdom?
- Offers good news & comfort to those who suffer in the present (works for first 4)
 - Declarative sentence, followed by promise
- 2nd 4—fulfill certain conditions and enter a new way of life
- New righteousness, interior life



BEATITUDES ARE EXCLAMATIONS

- “Oh, the bliss of...”
- Almost poetic in nature, read them with an eye of metaphorical appreciation.
- Dangerous, inaccurate, & unhelpful interpretations of the Beatitudes have been used in the past, based on a literal rendering and understanding.

