

THREE GREAT OLD TESTAMENT BEATITUDES
Psalm 84

Intro: One of the best known and most loved of all of the passages of Scripture is found in the Beatitudes of our Lord in Matthew 5, verses 1-12.

We love them because they speak of blessing, of happiness -- because a beatitude is really a promise of happiness, of joy.

This gives us a picture of the character of God that all men like to see -- that He has provided for our happiness, that He wants us to be happy.

And we like this!

Furthermore the blessings which are promises seem unlimited and unrestricted.

What many fail to see clearly is that there are conditions to the blessing of God,

and

these conditions are often completely different from the way that man would seek happiness if he were left to himself.

Much more could be said about the Beatitudes of our Lord, but I want that to be all for tonight.

Instead, I would point out to you tonight that not all of the Beatitudes of Scripture are found in Matthew 5 (or in its parallel in Luke 6).

They are not even just found in the NT.

I am sure that it would not in the least minimize what the Lord was doing to say that He was following a pattern which had been well established by the Psalmists of the OT, and by the Prophets.

All through Scripture we can see that God has always sought for the blessing of man. The trouble is that man is so blinded by his sin that he continues to seek blessing, to seek happiness, in ways and places that can never be found.

The subject is too great to try to be exhaustive. I simply want to be suggestive -- so that you can go on to discover this great area of truth for yourselves.

Please turn to Psalm 84.

Before we look at these three, perhaps I should just mention three others found in the Psalms which would come before these.

They are:

- 1) Psalm 32:1, 2 -- the beatitudes of forgiveness, of salvation.
- 2) Psalm 1:1, 2 -- the beatitude of the Word, with special emphasis on meditation.
- 3) Psalm 119:1, 2 -- the beatitudes of obedience.

There is a divine order in these three which leads to what we have in Psalm 84. We need to be saved,

we need to know the Word,
we need to obey the Word.

BUT PSALM 84 GOES BEYOND THAT, BUILDING ON THAT FOUNDATION, TO STRESS FOR US ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, ASPECTS OF OUR BLESSING, WHICH WE CAN SO EASILY OVERLOOK.

Let us notice what they are:

I. THE BEATITUDE OF FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD (Psalm 84:4).

In vv. 1-3 it seems like the Psalmist is an outsider, taking in what He sees when he looks into the house of the Lord.

But in vv. 8-10 we can see that he wants to at least be able to stay at the door. WHY? So he can be that close to the Lord.

This speaks of a life of abiding fellowship with the Lord.

In many ways it is related to the Beatitude in Psa. 65:4,
"Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple."

What is there here that we so easily forget? It is the central place, the pre-eminent place that the Lord must have in our prayers, in our devotions, and in all that pertains to our lives!

II. THE BEATITUDE OF PROMISED STRENGTH (Psalm 84:5, followed by vv. 6, 7).

Why is it that we as believers are so weak -- weak in our stand against sin, weak in our determinations to be like the Lord, and to do His will? IT IS BECAUSE WE KNOW SO LITTLE OF ABIDING IN HIS PRESENCE SO THAT HE CAN MAKE US STRONG IN HIS STRENGTH.

This is the way Moses' song began -- in Exodus 15.

How did David meet Goliath? See 1 Sam. 17:45-47.

Take also Isaiah's great promise in Isa. 40:29-31.

And what does this lead to? Is the order here to be ignored?
The first two Beatitudes lead up to the third:

III. THE BEATITUDE OF TRUSTING GOD (Psalm 84:12).

This is what we must do every day -- this is the life of faith!

Psalm 2 ends with

"Blessed are all they that put their trust in him."

Do we realize that this takes strength which can only come from fellowship with God?

Sometimes it seems so foolish -- like such a waste of time. Sometimes the Lord seems to be so far off, or busy with other things. That is why we need to know Him if we are to trust Him as we should.

How would Abraham advise us?

-- think of the promises God gave to him,

-- and how long he waited,

-- and what the outcome was!

See Rom. 4:18-21.

Ill. Two of our ladies were talking about problems and decisions which one of them was facing. The one said to the ~~other~~ who had the problems, "Do you think that the Lord is going to let you down?" And the other made this classic response, "No, I know Him too well for that!"

Concl: What is your problem tonight? What is it that weighs so heavily upon your heart? Perhaps there is more than one thing. You may have many.

What are you doing about it? Perhaps this Psalm is the very thing that you need.

And just to show you that it is NT truth as well as OT truth, please turn to Col. 1:10-12 where in vv. 10b and 11 we have the same three truth which we have been considering in the Beatitudes of Psalm 84.

"'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus . . ." May give us the grace to trust Him for all that we need!