

The Christian's Character (Matthew 5:1-12)

Course Outline

Lecture I

- I. INTRODUCTION (Matthew 5:1-2)
 - a. Jesus' Withdrawal to the Mountain to Teach
 - i. For private instruction with the disciples
 - ii. As possible parallel to Mount Sinai
 - b. The Authenticity of the "Sermon"
 - i. The comparison with Luke's "Sermon on the Plain" (Luke 6)
 - ii. Matthew 5-7—not an editorial collection of various teachings of Jesus
 - iii. Matthew 5-7 and Luke 6 — not alternate translations or versions of the same sermon
 - iv. Both "sermons" — summaries of the teaching at a protracted period of retreat
 - c. The analysis of the "Sermon"
 - i. The Christian's character (Matthew 5:3-12)
 - ii. The Christian's influence (Matthew 5:13-16)
 - iii. The Christian's righteousness (Matthew 5:17-48)
 - iv. The Christian's different piety (Matthew 6:1-18)
 - v. The Christian's different ambition (Matthew 6:19-34)
 - vi. The Christian's relationships (Matthew 7:1-27)
 - vii. The Conclusion: The two ways (Matthew 7:28-29)
- II. THE CHRISTIAN'S CHARACTER (Matthew 5:3-12)
 - a. Introduction to the Beatitudes
 - i. The eight qualities, Christ's description of all Christians
 - ii. The qualities commended: spiritual not social
 - iii. The "Beatitudes," the comprehensive blessing of the Kingdom
 - b. The Christian's Relationship to God (Matthew 5:3-6)
 - i. The acknowledgment of spiritual poverty before God (Matthew 5: 3)
 - ii. The repentance in sorrow before God (Matthew 5:4)
 - iii. The gentleness before men due to posture before God (Matthew 5:5)

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- iv. The continued appetite for righteousness: moral and social (Matthew 5:6)
 - c. The Christian's relationship to men (Matthew 5:7-12)
 - i. Mercy toward others, the evidence of repentance (Matthew 5:7)
 - ii. Purity in heart, sincerity and transparency (Matthew 5:8)
 - iii. Peacemaking, involving reconciliation not appeasement (Matthew 5:9)
 - iv. Persecution a token of the Christian's genuineness (Matthew 5:10-12)
- III. CONCLUSION: "Jesus Christ congratulates those whom the world most pities, and calls the world's rejects blessed."

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