

EMBASSY

COLLEGE



SYLLABUS AND STUDY GUIDE THE BEATITUDES OF JESUS (NT303)

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The Beatitudes

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Textbook for the Course:
Beatitudes
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THE BEATITUDES

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. Course Description

This is a study of the Beatitudes of Jesus as they appear in Matthew 5, as part of the Sermon on the Mount. We will analyze each statement of the Beatitudes and search out its abiding principles and apply them to our own lives as twenty-first century Christians.

II. Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

- A. Better understand the Beatitudes and their message from Jesus (knowledge, analysis, and comprehension).
- B. Examine and understand the permanent principles in each of these remarkable sayings of our Lord (analysis, synthesis, and comprehension).
- C. Be able to apply these principles to his life today and explore ways to use them daily (application and value complex).
- D. Want to continue his study and increase his appreciation of the Bible as God's Word to encourage, enhance and instruct all Christians.

III. Course Texts

- A. The Holy Bible—King James Version
- B. One other version of the Bible of the student's choosing
- C. This study guide
- D. The Textbook: Cottle, Ronald E., *The Beatitudes: The Christian's Declaration of Independence*, Columbus, TEC Publications, 1999.
- E. Optional: The teaching series by Dr. Ronald E. Cottle, "The Christian's Declaration of Independence," Christian Life Ministries.

IV. Course Requirements

- A. Read through Matthew 5-7 prayerfully before the course begins. Endeavor to absorb the contents and see the setting of the Beatitudes within the Sermon on the Mount.
- B. Study the course syllabus/study guide as much as possible before the course begins. Take many notes.
- C. Attend all class lectures.
- D. Complete the final examination as assigned by your director.

V. Evaluation Procedures

- A. Attendance at all lectures is required. If a lecture is missed for any reason, the director must be in advance and the student must listen to a recording of the lecture(s) missed.
- B. Final Exam

VI. Course Calendar

Period	Topic	Assignment
One*	Course Orientation / Introduction Chapters One and Two	Read Matthew 5-7; Text: pp. 1-29
Two	Chapters Three, Four and Five	Read Text: pp. 31-80
Three	Chapters Six, Seven, Eight, Nine and Conclusion	Read Text: pp. 81-146

***—In some ways this is the single most important meeting of the class. We should all be clear about what our primary study tools are, our major objectives, and those with whom we will take this wonderful journey into the heart of Jesus.**

VII. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Allen, Charles. *God's Psychiatry*. Westwood: Revell, 1958.

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Chappell, Clovis G. *The Sermon on the Mount*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1958.

Cottle, R. E. *Beatitudes: The Christian Declaration of Independence*. Columbus: TEC Publications, 1999.

Fitch, William. *The Beatitudes of Jesus*. London: Pickering and Inglis, Ltd., 1961.

Lloyd, Jones, D. Martyn. *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*. London: IVP, 1959.

Redhead, John A. *Finding Meaning in the Beatitudes*. New York: Abingdon, 1968.

Zodhiates, Spiros. *The Pursuit of Happiness*. Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 1966.

CHAPTER ONE

The Christian's Declaration of Independence

Matthew 5:1-2

And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying...

I. INTRODUCTION: THE NATURE OF THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT AND THE BEATITUDES

A. "Declaration of Independence"—the title of the Beatitudes

- We will approach this study using the three basic Rules of Biblical Interpretation.

1. What does the Bible _____?

- _____ question – _____

2. What does the Bible _____?

- _____ question – _____

3. What does the Bible _____?

- _____ question – _____

B. First the Beatitudes must be seen in their relationship to the Sermon on the Mount.

1. Titles given to the Sermon on the Mount:
 - a. “A _____ of Christ’s Teaching”—General
 - b. “The _____ of the King”—G. Campbell Morgan
 - c. “The _____ of the Kingdom”— G. K. Chesterton
 - d. “_____ and _____ - _____ of the Kingdom”

2. The Sermon on the Mount tells us _____ to live as Christians. It is the Christian’s Code of Conduct.

3. The Beatitudes are the _____ or introduction to the Sermon on the Mount.
 - a. The Beatitudes tell us _____ we are as Christians.
 - b. What the U.S. Declaration of Independence is to the U.S. Constitution, the Beatitudes are to the Sermon on the Mount.

4. The Beatitudes _____ what a Christian is.

5. The Beatitudes contain three things:
 - a. Jesus’ own personal _____ of a Christian
 - b. Jesus’ own listing of the seven _____ of Kingdom people
 - c. Jesus’ own verbal _____ of a citizen of the Kingdom

II. FIVE REASONS WHY THERE ARE ONLY SEVEN BEATITUDES

A. The importance of _____ to Matthew:

1. Gematria
2. Seven represents completeness, _____.

B. The text indicates that the first seven Beatitudes represent _____ of character, but number eight represents a _____ of character.

1. The first four Beatitudes are _____—that which happens to the Christian.
2. The next three Beatitudes are _____—that which happens **through** the Christian.

C. The first seven are reasonably well balanced and flowing in the original Greek and Aramaic; the eighth is not.

1. It is somewhat _____.
2. See especially verses 11-12

D. The _____ of the first seven Beatitudes seems to be different from number eight.

1. The Christians were not persecuted until the third year of Jesus' ministry—and then only He was persecuted.
2. Persecution came later:

- a. In A.D. 64 under Nero
- b. In A.D. 70 under Titus
- c. In A.D. 90 under Domitian

E. The “blessing” (*makarios*) of number eight _____ that of number one.

- “Kingdom of Heaven” is a _____ description which includes the other six Beatitudes.

F. Please note that I am not dismissing the eighth Beatitude as not belonging. It definitely belongs. However, it is not a _____ of Christian character, but rather it is an indicator of what happens in the present world system to those who live according to Christian character.

III. THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT IS MORE THAN JUST A _____ SERMON.

A. We speak of the Sermon on the Mount as though it were only one sermon preached at one specific time.

- 1. The Sermon on the Mount displaces Deuteronomy as the true _____ of the Mount Sinai Covenant.