The Beatitudes - Luke 6:20-36

Lead-up: Jesus had taught on "Lord of the Sabbath". When he healed a man with a shriveled hand, the Jews became furious. Jesus prayed all night and chose the 12 apostles. The power of God was with Jesus to heal many. Jesus begins to teach the apostles and the people.

Introduction: Luke 6:20-26 is known as part of what is called "the Beatitudes", "The Sermon on the Mount" or the "Sermon on the Plain".

The word "Beatitudes" is not found in the Bible. It means "joys of heaven" or "a declaration of blessedness".

Read commentary on Pg 1565 – this is not a word for word recording of Jesus' words but a student's notes (of course inspired by Holy Spirit)!

Read Luke 6:20-26 and Matthew 5:3-12.

Question: Does God want us to be poor, hungry, sad and hated?

Let's take a look at some other Scriptures about <u>wealth</u>:

Dt 8:16-18 He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you. You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

Pr 11:28 Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

Pr 22:1-2 A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold. Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the Maker of them all.

Pr 23:4-5 Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

Luke 8:14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

Pr 13:21-22 Misfortune pursues the sinner, but ***prosperity is the reward of the righteous***. A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous.

Mt 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Points:

1) NIV Concordance for the Greek word says, " 'The poor in spirit' are not lacking in spirit but have the positive moral quality of humility, realizing they have nothing to offer God but are in need of his free gifts."
2) Notice the Scripture says "because of me". When we suffer because of our belief and sharing about Jesus, we are blessed. We are not blessed because of our own greed or selfishness or stupidity. Poverty is not a blessing in and of itself.
3) Teaching style of Jewish rabbis: They used the method of exaggeration to get their point across to the learner.

Read Luke 6:27-31.

Questions: What about self-defense? What about "Do not steal?"

Points:

1) In the law, we are allowed self-dense, defense of family and possessions and commanded to defend the helpless, orphan and widow.
2) Mt 5:39 commentary states "Striking someone on the cheek was more an insult than considered an act of violence."
3) Mt 5:43 commentary states "Hatred of enemies was an accepted part of the Jewish ethic at that time in some circles."

Question: What was Jesus driving at?

1) Where are we to place our focus?
2) How are we to consider our possessions, our reputations, our rights?

Read Luke 6:32-36.

Questions: Does this mean we are to be a "doormat"? What is the real point of what Jesus is saying?

Points:

1) God wants us to love the unlovely, be generous, be kind and show mercy.

Scriptures about wealth:

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