

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S7E2

How Is Isaiah Connected To The Beatitudes? - Matthew 5:1-10

Description – Today we'll start to look at the Beatitudes and where we can find similar concepts in the book of Isaiah

Welcome back to the podcast!

Quick recap of all that God did in our visit to Trousedale Prison. God is at work among the captives! We had a steak dinner for them and they ate, some seconds and thirds. A powerful worship service where God moved, there were 25 who gave their lives to Jesus and then 21 who came forward for baptism. Worship is still going this whole time in the gym while Pastor Robby is baptizing. It was a revival, at one of the toughest prisons in America.

Today, we're going to continue to look at some of the background things to the sermon on the mount.

Matthew 5:1-2

When he saw the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to teach them, saying:

Jesus goes up a mountain and then he sits down to preach and teach.

After seeing the crowds, Jesus goes up a mountain, and his disciples come to him.

Jesus is healing the crowds, driving out demons, and healing the sick, but he's primarily speaking to his disciples. The crowds do hear, but it's mainly for his teaching and training his disciples.

Back to Matthew 5:1, notice that Jesus sits down, and begins to teach.

Remember, their services were different from ours. We stand to sing and then sit for the reading and preaching of the word. For the Jews, they would stand for the whole reading of the scriptures, normally 40 to 45 minutes of just reading the scriptures.

They stood to honor and hear the word, to focus on it, as it was their only time of the week to hear God's word. They didn't have copies of it in their home on their coffee tables.

When Jesus goes up the mountain to teach and interpret the Law and Word of God, he's recreating the picture of Moses going up the mountain of Sinai in Exodus 19-20.

There's a lot of similarities between Jesus and Moses in Matthew. Both went up on a mountain.

But where the Law that Moses gave the people was very conditional, ex: you do this, God does this, you obey, God blesses, you disobey, God will punish. Very practical rules for living and interacting with God's people.

Moses's blessings were also physical things, like the blessing of the Land. Jesus's blessings were more on spiritual things.

The beatitudes are going to be divided into two major sections. Just like the 10 commandments (first 4 - our relationship with God, the last 6 - our relationship with others).

Lets look at Isaiah 61 and compare it to Matthew 5 in the Beatitudes.

Isaiah 61 - A messianic text about the Messiah from Isaiah where Isaiah is describing the Messianic Kingdom. The miracles, the way to live, what the kingdom will look like, etc.

Isaiah 61:1-4

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of our God's vengeance; to comfort all who mourn, ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion; to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, festive oil instead of mourning, and splendid clothes instead of despair. And they will be called righteous trees, planted by the LORD to glorify him. ⁴They will rebuild the ancient ruins; they will restore the former devastations; they will renew the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Isaiah is describing what will happen when the Messiah comes. Jesus reads this passage when he sits down to teach in the Synagogue in Nazareth.

Jesus teaches Isaiah 61:1-2, but stops vs. 2 after "To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" and doesn't read, "the day of our God's vengeance" There will be a time for that, but it's not now. This is the jubilee, this is freedom with Jesus's first coming. The Jews wanted the messiah who would proclaim jubilee and freedom for them, but they also wanted the Messiah to exact vengeance from their enemies, their captors.

Matthew 11:2-6

² Now when John heard in prison what the Christ was doing, he sent a message through his disciples ³ and asked him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" ⁴ Jesus replied to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor are told the good news, ⁶ and blessed is the one who isn't offended by me."

Jesus also Quotes Isaiah 61 when he's responding to John the Baptist's disciples in Matthew 11.

Isaiah 61:7-9

⁷ In place of your shame, you will have a double portion; in place of disgrace, they will rejoice over their share. So they will possess double in their land, and eternal joy will be theirs. ⁸ For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and injustice; I will faithfully reward my people and make a permanent covenant with them. ⁹ Their descendants will be known among the nations, and their posterity among the peoples. All who see them will recognize that they are a people the LORD has blessed.

Matthew 5:3-10

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

So all through the beatitudes, Jesus is reframing Isaiah 61 here in Matthew 5.

Next time, we'll look at the word "blessed" (Makarios in Greek) and what is the purpose of the beatitudes? Why would Jesus start there?