

WORSHIP

Sermon | 3.29.2020



Blessed

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Matthew 5:1-12

There once was this young boy who was rich, very rich. He had all that money could buy, except for one thing. And the reality of this one thing he was missing happened upon him during a ribbon cutting ceremony, where he was standing in for his father. He noticed across the street, kids playing on a makeshift baseball field. He was mesmerized by their laughter and apparent joy found in a simple game and he badly wanted to join them. It dawned on him, right then, what was missing from his life, true connection; relationship. His money had afforded him many things in his young life, the praise of crowds, popularity, possessions, but not meaningful connection with others. The flip side of this coin is the story of a young man who was a lowly commoner. One whose circumstances lead him to the vocation of petty thief. He had mastered how to get lost in the crowd and go unnoticed. One day doing what he did best he ran into a particular young lady who had ventured out seeking to escape her life of prestige and privilege. Long story short they hit it off. However, this young man soon learned who she truly was. After learning she was a princess, he felt he was not worthy of her hand considering his current situation. Only if he stood out. Only if he had position, power and wealth. He soon would learn, despite securing all these things, these things did not matter. It wasn't his possessions or the lack thereof that won her heart it was his character. You know these persons to be Richie Rich and Aladdin. Naturally, the question raised is, "What do these stories have to do with our text?" Glad you asked. Like these two characters we often fail to recognize where



true blessing lies and/or who the blessed truly are. No doubt we would look at a person like Richie Rich and assume blessing and we would look at a person like Aladdin, a lowly commoner and petty thief, and assume the opposite.

Unfortunately, we more often get it wrong than right; where true blessing lies and who the blessed truly are. A result of our sinfulness, no doubt. In our text Jesus makes clear where true blessing lies and who the blessed are and it was just as shocking and, perhaps, encouraging to those who originally heard as it will be to us. 3 observations I want to share this morning on this topic, blessed, drawn from the text.

First, true blessing does not lie with the crowd. The text states Jesus saw the crowd. The common folk, the mainstream: those doing what everybody else where doing, going where everybody else were going, chasing after the same things everybody else was chasing. What the is made know to me was with Jesus you need not worry about standing out or getting lost in the crowd. Jesus sees you and in seeing you he has pronounced blessing upon you. When it comes to Jesus no one is insignificant, crowd or not.

John 1:48 “Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

I can imagine many feel lost in the crowd this morning given our current circumstance. Isolated and confined to our respective parts of the world, our respective countries, states, communities and homes. But just as Jesus saw Nathanael under the fig tree, just as he saw the crowd, he sees you, no matter where you are or what you are dealing with! And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, pronouncing blessing.

This leads us to our second observation. True blessing, eternal blessing is a current reality, given by God thru Jesus Christ, irrespective of our physical and spiritual circumstance. Church, eternal blessing is not earned but given freely by God. This is good news. The word order that Jesus uses in his pronouncement of blessing is not inconsequential. It is intentional. Jesus is drilling home a very important truth, in Christ Jesus your being blessed is not predicated by your



physical and/or spiritual predicament. Certainly, those that fit the descriptions in verses 3-12 would not have seen themselves as the blessed apart from this pronouncement by Jesus. Neither would we. But nonetheless Jesus says they were blessed. Oppressed, hurting, misunderstood, unfulfilled, frustrated, lonely, weary, criticized and mistreated blessed!

Our 3rd and final observation. Blessing, though a current reality, will be fully realized at the last day. Do you see it in the text? Verse 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven. If you were to do a study of these pronounced blessings, or beatitudes as well call them, you would discover that at the heart of each blessing is the reversal of circumstance. That is to say, things want always be as things currently are. Change gon' come. Hold on a little while longer. Certainly God/Christ is with us and would not leave us in a time such as this. Church, we are blessed!

