

Elation Foundation

Matthew 5:3-12

The lesson name & bullet titles used for this study came from a Christian Hip-Hop artist named Evangel & his CD titled "Elation Foundation" covering the same subject matter. The CD can be purchased at <http://christcentric.net>.

- Introduction
 - The "Elation Foundation" is a study of the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount.
 - Although Jesus had already been teaching in the synagogues & proclaiming the gospel (Matt. 4:23), the Sermon on the Mount is the first teaching from Jesus that we encounter in Matthew's gospel, with the Beatitudes being the very first portion of that teaching.
 - This teaching was particularly Jewish and Kingdom-minded in its context, and therefore any primary application must come from that understanding.
 - The Church is **not** in view, so any application that is made from this passage will only be secondary in nature.
 - This study will focus on the secondary application that we as believers can take away from this passage, using it as a guide for how we ought to conduct ourselves in the Christian way of life.
- Bankruptcy Department (v.3)
 - These are people who acknowledge their own spiritual powerlessness and bankruptcy apart from Christ.
 - Until a person reaches this point, they have no need for Christ, and therefore cannot enter the kingdom.
 - It is this brokenness that serves as a prerequisite which leads into all of the other beatitudes (Lk. 18:9-14; 1 Cor. 1:26-29; 2 Cor. 6:10; Ps. 34:18; 51:17; 147:3).
- Savings & Moans (v.4)
 - These are people who not only realize their helplessness, but they have a heart response that is sorrowful toward sin.
 - Israelites, in this context, mourning over the nation of Israel and their inability to follow God (Ps. 119:136; Ezek. 9:4; Ezra 10:6; Dan. 9:19-20).
 - Our application: those who mourn over their own sin or the sins of others (Rom. 7:24; 1 Cor. 5:2; 2 Cor. 7:9, 10; 12:21; Phil. 3:18; Jas. 4:9).
 - It is those who mourn that God will comfort (Isa 40:1; 61:1-3; Matt. 1:21; 11:28-30; 2 Cor. 1:3-7; Rev. 21:4).
- Soul Beneficiary (v.5)
 - The gentle (or meek/humble) are those who are self-controlled, considerate, and not overly concerned with their own self-importance.
 - Gentleness and self-control are traits of a wise man (Prov. 15:1, 18; 16:32; 20:3; Ecc. 7:8; Jas. 3:13).
 - Gentleness is a fruit of the Spirit that is expected to be a character trait of believers (Gal. 5:23; Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12; 1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 2:25; Tit. 3:2; Jas. 1:21; 1 Pet. 3:15).
 - Christians will not just inherit a land, but the entire earth as we reign with Christ (Ps. 37:11; Rev. 21:7).

- Food Court (v.6)
 - This is the person who recognizes that he has no righteousness of his own and is actively seeking after God's righteousness, instead of trying to create his own.
 - Those who don't know God's righteousness always end up trying to create their own standard (Rom. 10:3; Phil. 3:9). They don't thirst after spiritual things because they cannot discern them (1 Cor. 2:14).
 - Hunger & thirst depict a deep desire for God's Word (Amos. 8:11-14).
 - The believer knows that God is his only source (Ps. 42:2; 63:1).
 - Our righteousness is achieved through the work of Jesus Christ on the Cross (Rom. 5:18-21).
 - Our thirst & hunger is filled & satisfied through the study & learning of the Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16, 17), as well as applying it to our lives.
 - We are ultimately looking forward to the new heavens & new earth where righteousness dwells (2 Pet. 3:13).
- Mercy Mutual (v.7)
 - These are people who are generous & realize that they must forgive in order to be forgiven.
 - Jesus tells Peter a parable that illustrates how we are to forgive & show mercy (Matt. 18:21-35).
 - We cannot expect God to forgive us if we cannot forgive others & continue to hold grudges against them (Matt. 6:14, 15).
 - As believers, we choose to forgive because we have already been forgiven much (Eph. 4:32; 5:1, 2; 1 Tim. 1:16; Tit. 3:5).
- Pure in Heart (v.8)
 - This is the person who has a mind that is stayed on Christ and is not giving into the sinful ways of the world.
 - The natural man cannot do this because his heart is far from being pure (Ecc. 9:3; Jer. 17:9; Mk. 7:21, 22).
 - If we are walking in the Light we are cleansed from our sin and able to have fellowship with God (2 Cor. 7:1; 2 Tim. 2:22; Heb. 12:14; 1 John 1:7; 3:1-3).
 - Even though we only see God in the spiritual right now, we will ultimately see Him face-to-face (Ps. 17:15; Rev. 22:3, 4).
- Shalom Factory (v.9)
 - These are people who work toward "shalom" (wholeness & harmony) in all aspects of life, particularly in reconciling others to God & each other.
 - As much as it is possible, we should be at peace with all men (Gen. 13:8; Ps. 34:14; 122:6-8; Prov. 16:7; Rom. 12:18; Phil. 4:2; 1 Pet. 3:11).
 - Because we are sons of God (Rom. 8:14; Gal. 3:26) through Christ (Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:15-17; Col. 1:20), we, as Christians, have been given the ministry of reconciling sinful man to God (2 Cor. 5:18-20).
- HR Department (v.10-12)
 - These are individuals who have been wrongly treated because of their faith in Jesus Christ (*H.R. = Haters Revile/Heavenly Rewards).
 - Jesus forewarned His disciples that they should expect persecution because of their faith (John 15:18-25).
 - Just as hungering & thirsting for righteousness should be the norm, so too should persisting through persecution be the norm (Ps. 37:12; Jas. 1:2-4; 5:11; 1 Pet. 3:14, 17; 4:12-16).

- In the midst of our persecution, we should still maintain an attitude of gladness & rejoice, knowing that the Lord will reward us (Rom. 5:3ff; 2 Cor. 4:17; 12:10; Phil. 2:17, 18; 1 Thess. 1:6; 2 Tim. 2:12; 3:12; Heb. 10:34, 35; Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10).
- Why "Elation Foundation"?
 - Elation means to be in high spirits or joyful. This is to be a character trait of the person who has put their faith in Jesus Christ. The Beatitudes reflect many of the qualities that should be found in a Christian, which should cause them to be elated.
 - The foundation in all of this is Jesus Christ. Without Christ all of this would be impossible. On our own, we cannot live up to these standards. We need Christ as the foundation with the Holy Spirit working in & through us to live out these beatitudes.
 - As believers, if we walk in fellowship with the Holy Spirit on a daily basis, we can successfully live out each of these beatitudes.