

## **April 10, 2016 (Matthew 5:1-12)**

### **“Inside-Out Upside-Down Blessings”**

#### **“Inside Out”—the movie**

- Matthew 5:1-12 (and the entire Sermon)—the “be-attitudes,” values that get “inside” of us

#### **Contemporary Beatitudes**

- Blessed are those...
  - with a lot of possessions
  - a successful business / career
  - positions of power
  - a large retirement portfolio
  - look great
  - safe

#### **Upside Down**

- The values of heaven tend to be opposite of those of earth
  - This is not always the case: Rick Mercer example
- But often the values of Jesus’ Kingdom and the world are at odds to each other.

#### **Overall Intention Of The Beatitudes**

1. A shift in worldview (not a mere band aid)
2. “In his Beatitudes, Jesus is simply describing what happens to human beings when His gospel grabs hold. In His beatitudes, Jesus is giving a profile of the new humanity that happens, the new humanity that emerges, when the reign of God breaks into our brokenness. Jesus is describing people in sync with that great fact” (D Johnson, The Beatitudes, 19)
3. “Blessed” (“happy”): how God assesses us and our condition.
4. “For...”: not “therefore” but “because”

## **The “Good News” of These Be-Attitudes:**

1. Jesus is speaking and he is a good king.
2. The Kingdom is ours (verses 3 & 10)!
3. These words are for our good.
4. This is the way of Jesus (a tried and true method)
5. To not follow this path leads to...
6. Connected and interrelated (domino effect):
  - “poor in spirit”: recognize their desperate plight, and long for God’s restoration through the Messiah.
  - “mourning” over both personal and corporate sins
  - meek” = humble, hoping in God
  - hunger and thirst for righteousness”: longing for personal holiness and justice for the oppressed.
  - merciful” = compassionate and kind-hearted
  - pure in heart”: clean
  - peacemakers”: those who promote peace, as far as it depends on them (Romans 12:18).