



# **BEATITUDES**

**Fall Bible Study**

# Dr. Tom Long

- *The Sermon on the Mount is the “Constitution” of the church of Jesus Christ, and the Beatitudes are its “Preamble.”*



# 25 Years of Bible Study

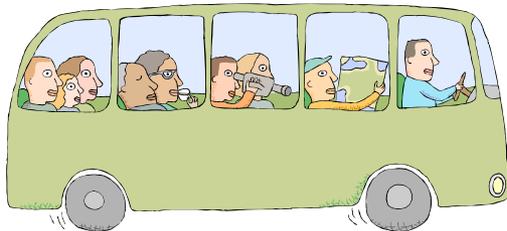
- Started as a small “Senior Adult” Study in 1990 by Evelyn Kepley
- Expanded into a Community Bible Study with the “Revelation” study with a challenge by Mack Mast and prayers by Rochella Baker!

# The Schedule

- We will meet every Monday night at 7:00 between now and November 10
- We will not meet on Monday, 10/13
- We will meet every Tuesday morning at 10:45 between now and Nov. 11
- We will not meet Tuesday, 10/21

# Bible Study Field Trips!

- Next May will be our 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Bible Study Field Trip!
- We have several travel opportunities!



# Eastern Caribbean Cruise February 26 – March 9, 2015





# 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil War

- **May 4– 7, 2015**
- Shenandoah Valley, Staunton, Lexington & Appomattox, VA
- D-Day Memorial in Bedford
- With Garland and Frank
- A \$150 deposit will guarantee your reservation!

# The Holy Land

February 26 – March 6, 2016



# 2016 Bible Study Field Trip

- Gettysburg and Amish Country



# European River Cruise



# Matthew 5

- Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him.  
2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:
- 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
- 5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

# Matthew 5

- “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- 7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
- 8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- 9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
- 10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
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# Today

- What is a "Beatitude?"
- The Grammatical Perspective
- The Sermon on the Mount
- The Moses Connection
- The Greater Context
- What Does it Mean to Be Blessed?

# What is a Beatitude?

- Latin Vulgate
- Latin word "*Beatitudines*"
- Latin root *beatus* means "happy"
- Past Participle *beare* "to bless"
- The Beatitudes are "the blessings"

# A Distinctive Literary Form

- The Pronouncement of Blessing
- The statement of character or circumstance that elicits the Blessing
- The Promise

# Psalm 1

- Blessed is the man  
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
<sup>2</sup> but his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.  
<sup>3</sup> He is like a tree  
planted by streams of water,  
that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither.  
In all that he does, he prospers

# Revelation 1

- <sup>3</sup> Blessed is he who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written therein; for the time is near.
- 44 Beatitudes in the NT, 28 in Matthew and Luke

# The Grammatical Perspective

Not imperative

Not subjective

But Indicative

"O the Blessedness of . . ."

# The Sermon on the “Mount?”

- Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. (Matthew 5: 1)
- He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, (Luke 6: 17)





# The Moses Connection

- Both of their births (Moses and Jesus) are associated with an evil king who slaughters innocent children
- Both had to flee and later return to the land
- Both were in the wilderness (40 years, 40 days and nights)
- Moses initiated the Passover
- Jesus became the Pascal Lamb

# The Mountain

- Moses receives the Law on Mt. Sinai
- Jesus redefines the law on this "mountain"
- You have heard it said of old, . . .
- But I say unto you . . .

# The Context

- Sermon on the Mount is Matt. 5-7
- Redefines the law in revolutionary terms
- At the Very Center of the Sermon on the Mount we find . . .
- The Lord's Prayer
- The very center of the Lord's Prayer . . .
- "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

# The Lord's Prayer

- Thy will be done" is what we are saying.
- We are asking God to be God.
- We are asking God to do not what we want but what God wants
- To speak those words is to invite the tiger out of the cage, to unleash a power that makes atomic power look like a warm breeze.

# The Conclusion

- <sup>24</sup> “Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock. <sup>25</sup> The rain fell, the floods came, and the wind blew and beat against that house. It didn’t fall because it was firmly set on bedrock. <sup>26</sup> But everybody who hears these words of mine and doesn’t put them into practice will be like a fool who built a house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain fell, the floods came, and the wind blew and beat against that house. It fell and was completely destroyed.”

# The Response

- When Jesus finished these words, the crowds were amazed at his teaching <sup>29</sup> because he was teaching them like someone with authority and not like their legal experts.
- Now when Jesus had come down from the mountain, **large crowds followed him.**
- (Matthew 7: 28 – 8:1)

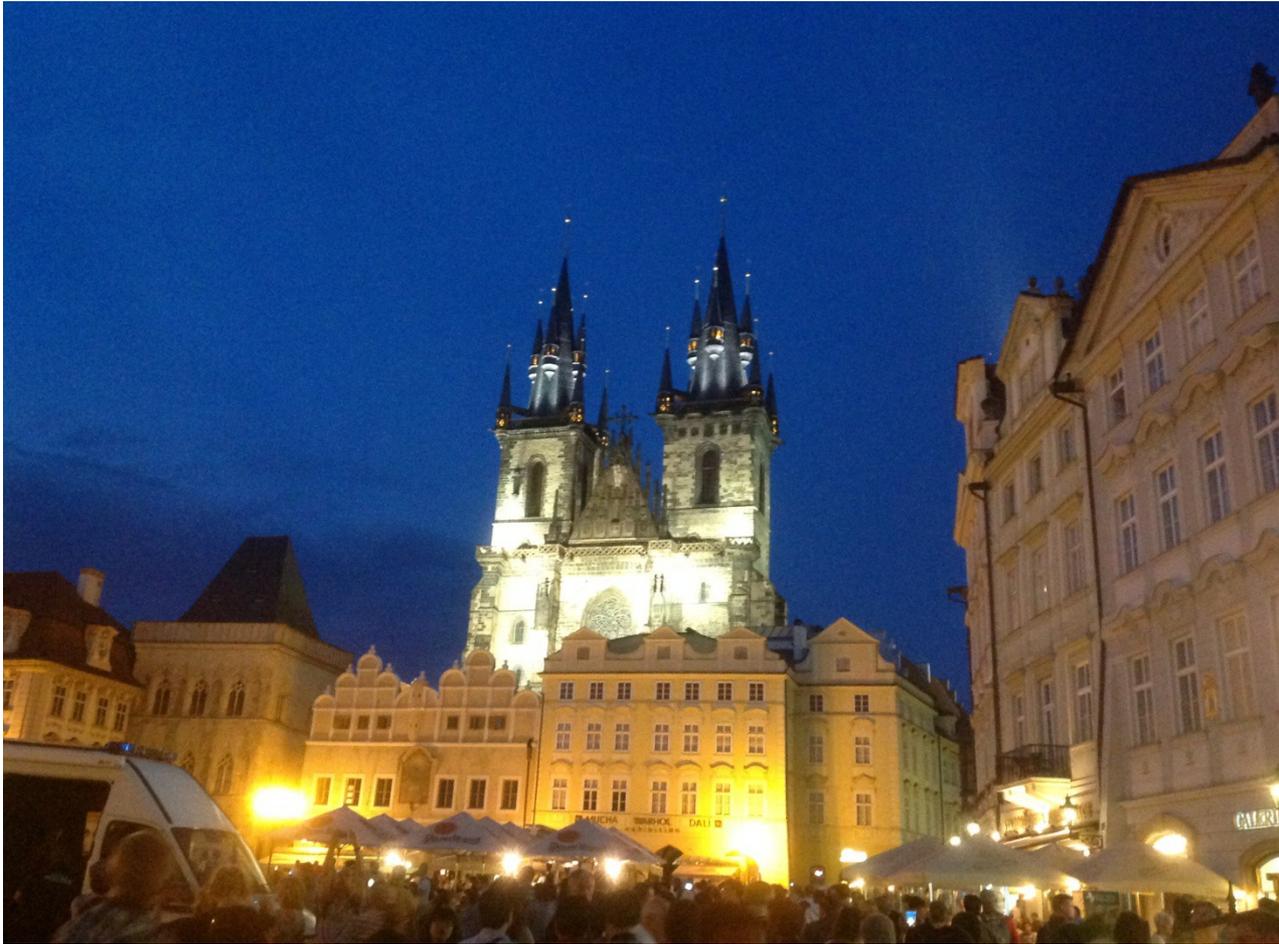
# The Greater Context

- 4: 23 Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues. He announced the good news of the kingdom and healed every disease and sickness among the people.
- 9: 35 Jesus traveled among all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, announcing the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness.

# Good News of the Kingdom

- Matthew 5 – 7 that begins with the Beatitudes
- Matthew 8 – 9 contain Jesus actions: here is how you live in the Kingdom
- In Matthew 10 he calls his disciples and commissions them to do the same.

# What Does it Mean to Be Blessed?





# A History of Oppression



Third Reich in Ruins









PEKÁŘSTVÍ HOSTOMICE

Fresh  
cocktails  
Koktejly z čerstvého ovoce a zeleniny

BRAMBORY  
ČERVENÉ  
12,- Kč

ČIBULLE  
ŽLUTÁ  
20,- Kč

40,- Kč



PIVO  
BEER  
ПИВО  
CZECH LAGER 12'  
ÁCOV  
30KG

PIVO  
BEER  
ПИВО  
Premium  
CZECH  
LAGER  
HUBERTUS



RISTORANTE  
PIZZERIA

THE  
DUBLINER  
PIZZERIA







# Indicative Mood



# Entrance Requirements?

- Do we have to become "poor in spirit," do we have to "mourn," etc. to enter the Kingdom?
- The Beatitudes are not conditional, they are indicative
- Jesus is blessing his disciples, just as they were—
- Sometimes we have a hard time believing that God will bless us "just as we are"

# Dr. Stanley Hauerwas

- *My father was a good, kind, simple, gentle man. He did not try to be gentle, for there was no meanness in him. He was not tempted to hatred, envy, or resentment. He was kind and gentle, possessing each virtue with a simplicity that comes only to those who are good through and through. It was simply his gift to be gentle, which he gave unreservedly to those of us fortunate to be his family and friends.*

# Ideals We Must Strive to Attain

- *That his gentleness came so effortlessly helps us understand better Jesus' beatitudes. Too often those characteristics -- the poor in spirit, those that mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and the persecuted -- are turned into ideals we must strive to attain.*

# Washed in the Blood of the Lamb

- *As ideals, they can become formulas for power rather than descriptions of the kind of people characteristic of the new age brought about by Christ; for the beatitudes are not general recommendations for anyone but describe those who have been washed by the blood of the Lamb. It is they who hunger and thirst no more, having had their lives transformed by Christ's cross and resurrection.*

# A Ragtag Group of Followers

- Some were meek, all were not (Simon Peter)
- Some were Pure in Heart, all were not (Judas)
- Some were Peacemakers, all were not (Simon Peter)
- Together we become the church

# Blessed?

- Happy?
- How Fortunate?
- Rejoice?
- Congratulations?

# Congratulations!

- Not Entrance Requirements
- But promises announced to the unsuspecting and undeserving
- The Kingdom of Heaven
- Inherit the Earth
- They shall see God
- Shall be called Sons of God

# This Is What We Are Becoming

