



Knox Presbyterian Church

20 Quebec Street
Guelph, ON N1H 2T4
Telephone: (519) 821-0141
Fax: (519) 821-8307

E-mail: office@knoxguelph.ca
Website: www.knoxguelph.ca

Rev. Johan Olivier
Minister

Anne Eaton
Pastoral Assistant

Chris Fischer
Director of Music Ministries

Wilma Welsh
Mission Coordinator

Jessie Bush
Session Clerk

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Rev. Dr. Arnold Bethune
Nancy Dickieson
Kathie Stirling
Stephen Leaders

*"Christ caring for People
through People"*

August 29, 2010

Matthew 5 (New International Version)

¹Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ²and he began to teach them saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹⁰"You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

¹¹⁻¹²"Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don't like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble." (Matthew 5 verses 11&12 are an expansion of verse 10)

In coming to the eighth, or supplementary beatitude, it will be seen that all that the saints are has been described, in seven characteristics; the number seven indicating completeness. The eighth, represents the treatment that these saints may expect from the world. Jesus ends by forewarning that the world's estimation and treatment will be the reverse of His.

Ever wondered why Christians are so often criticised and reviled? Jesus not only predicts that this will happen but explains why. "What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable."

Jesus' guidance for those who experience this is; expect it, accept it, grow through it, let it affirm you, and finally celebrate it. Notice that it says nothing about returning the same attitude and treatment you receive to those who send it your way. Humility and meekness must prevail. Remember Jesus words from the cross, "Father forgive them for they don't understand what they are doing."

As Jesus continues this teaching (Sermon on the Mount) He elaborates on our response to this treatment: "You're familiar with the old written law, 'Love your friend,' and its unwritten companion, 'Hate your enemy.' I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves."

May God's Spirit give us the wisdom and love to follow this teaching.

Amen.

(Rev.) John McGurrin