

The left side of the slide features a decorative design consisting of several vertical stripes in shades of light blue and teal, and a cluster of five teal circles of varying sizes arranged in a roughly circular pattern.

THE BEATITUDES – A SERIES: PART 1 OF 11

Golden Gate Church of Christ

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THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:

**“How blessed are the people
whose God is the Lord!”**

Psalms 144:15 NIV

- Instructions:
 - Read aloud as a group
 - Repeat as a group



PART 1 - INTRODUCTION

- The Text For This Series: **Matthew 4:23-5:12**
- Background Leading to The Beatitudes:
 - Matthew Chapter 1 – Genealogy of Jesus; Birth of Jesus
 - Matthew Chapter 2 – Jesus is visited by the Wise Men; Herod tries to kill Jesus; Family flees to Egypt
 - Matthew Chapter 3 – Jesus is baptized by John
 - Matthew Chapter 4 – Jesus fasts for 40 days & 40 nights; Tempted by the devil; Ministered to by angels; Jesus begins to preach (vs 17) “**Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**”; Jesus calls his first 4 disciples: Peter, Andrew, James, and John



- Just prior to the Beatitudes, Matthew 4:23-25 tells us, Jesus first taught **throughout Galilee**:
 - Teaching in their Synagogues
 - Proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom
 - Healing every kind of disease & sickness

- Second, we are told the news about Him went out into **all Syria**, and they:
 - Brought all that were ill:
 - Taken with various diseases and pains (torments)
 - Demoniacs (possessed with devils)
 - Epileptics (lunatics)
 - Paralytics (palsy)

And, He healed them!





○ Third, we learn great multitudes followed Him from:

- Galilee
- Decapolis (10 Towns)
- Jerusalem
- Judea
- and beyond Jordan



- When Jesus sees there are multitudes of people following him, from essentially the whole of Palestine and beyond, we are told He goes up on the mountain side and sits down.
 - He's at a higher level so perhaps his voice can carry.
 - He is sitting down to teach, which is an ancient custom indicating authority.
 - His disciples come to Him.
- Matthew Chapters 5,6, & 7 – Jesus teaches, what has come to be known as, *The Sermon on the Mount* – the greatest sermon ever preached!



- The Sermon on the Mount begins with the foundational or value principles now known as *The Beatitudes* (although the word “Beatitudes” is not actually recorded in the Bible anywhere – first appeared in *Jerome’s Latin Bible* 390-405 A.D.).
- As a whole, the Beatitudes consist of 8 statements beginning with a group identifier (eg, “the meek”, “those who ...”) and are followed by a winning outcome (eg, “for they shall ...”, “theirs is ...”). Only the last one drills down further to the personal “you”, “your”.
- The Beatitudes provide a construct for the basis of Christian character in the Kingdom of God.



- Some Theologians point out the comparison of the OT and the NT's great points of beginning or periods of marking new freedom. For example:

Old Testament

A Nation of God's Chosen People Established – Circumcision – Exclusive, by Blood

Jews Leave Bondage / Egypt

The 10 Commandments –
(Mostly) Negative: Thou Shalt Not ...

Annual Sin Sacrifice and Atonement – Never Forgotten

New Testament

God's Newly Chosen People Are Established – One Church – Open to All, also by Blood

The World Leaves Law / Sin

The 8 Beatitudes –
Positive: Blessed Art ...

Jesus is Final Sin Sacrifice – Once Only – Sins Forgotten



- Next week we will look closer at the meaning behind the words: Bless, Blessed, Blessings
- And, we will examine the first Blessing:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:3

- You may want to plan ahead ... what do you think “poor in spirit” means?

