

Matthew 5:1-12 "Humanity Made New"

Read Matthew 5:1-12

The sermon began by giving four observations that set the framework for our understanding of the beatitudes. They were:

I The beatitudes are the fruit of receiving and experiencing good news.

II The beatitudes are the practical application of Jesus' first sermon (Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:15)

III Blessedness is not about our subjective state but about God's objective pronouncement

IV The beatitudes are not describing eight different kinds of people but rather eight qualities of the same person.

1. Which of these four observations did you find most opened up your understanding of the beatitudes and why?
2. Each of the promises associated with the beatitudes tell us something about the nature of the kingdom. Look at each promise in turn. What are each telling us about the kingdom?
3. John Chrysostom called the beatitudes a golden chain, each building upon the one before moving us naturally to the next. How does this impact how you read them?
4. As we went through each in the sermon which one stood out to you and why? How will reflecting this beatitude impact the world around you?
5. These are not commands but pronouncements over those in whom the good news is taking hold. How can we receive this life of the kingdom, this new humanity?