

The Road Less Traveled

Part 1:

The Pathway to Life

Matthew 5:1-12 and 7:13-14
(p. 936 or p. 1038)

The Sermon on the Mount

GOD

Moses



Mt. Sinai



12 Tribes



Law

- Our Behavior
(murder, adultery)

Jesus



On a Mountainside



12 Disciples



The Law Re-visited

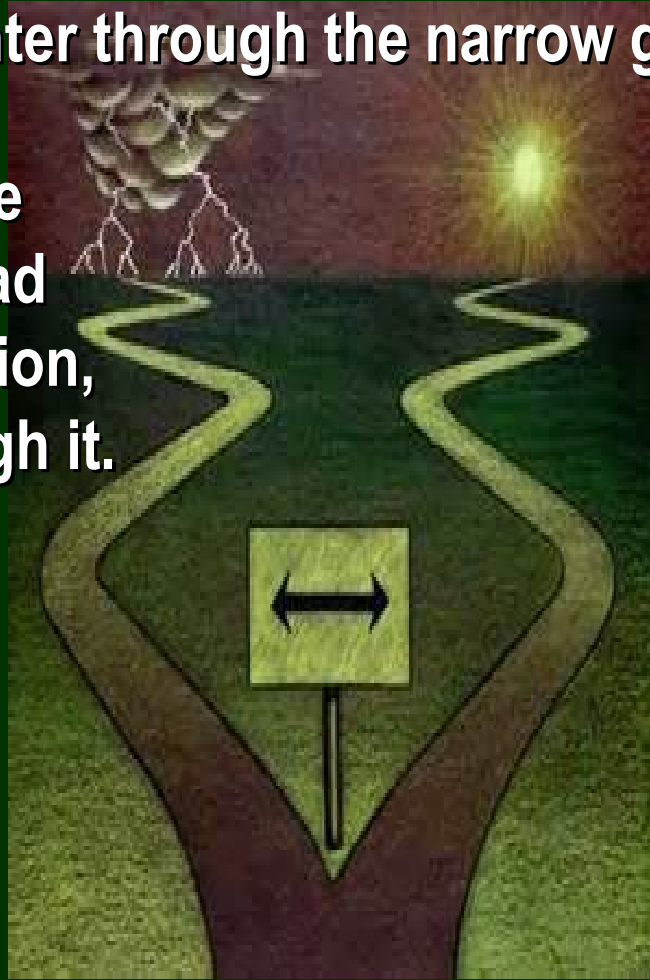
- Our Hearts
(hatred, lust)

The Beatitudes

"Blessed"

"Enter through the narrow gate.

For wide is the gate
and broad is the road
that leads to destruction,
and many enter through it.



But small is the gate
and narrow the road
that leads to life,
and only a few find it."

Matthew 7:13-14

There Is a Right Road

“Disobey me and die.”

“Obey me and live!”



Adam and Eve

There Is a Right Road

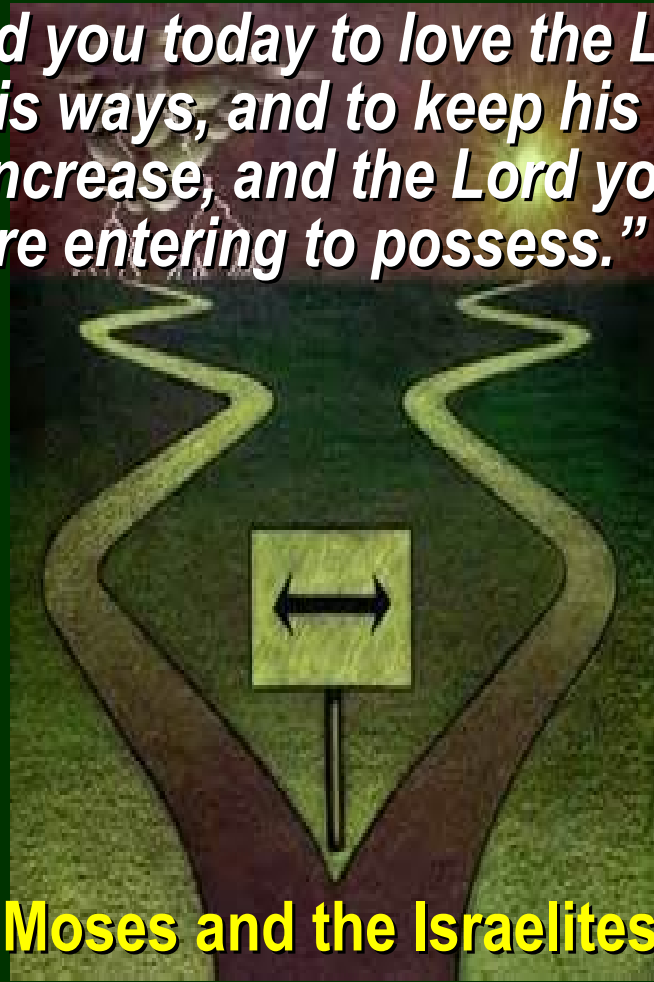
***“See, I set before you today life and prosperity,
death and destruction.***

***For I command you today to love the Lord your God,
to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands;
then you will live & increase, and the Lord your God will bless you
in the land you are entering to possess.” (Deut. 30:15-16)***

Psalm 119:105

Psalm 1

Moses and the Israelites



The Beatitudes are SIGNPOSTS telling us we are on the right road

If your life does
NOT resemble
these Beatitudes,
be **WARNED!**



“Blessed ... blessed... blessed...”

This is how you know
you're on the right track.

The Beatitudes are SIGNPOSTS telling us we are on the right road

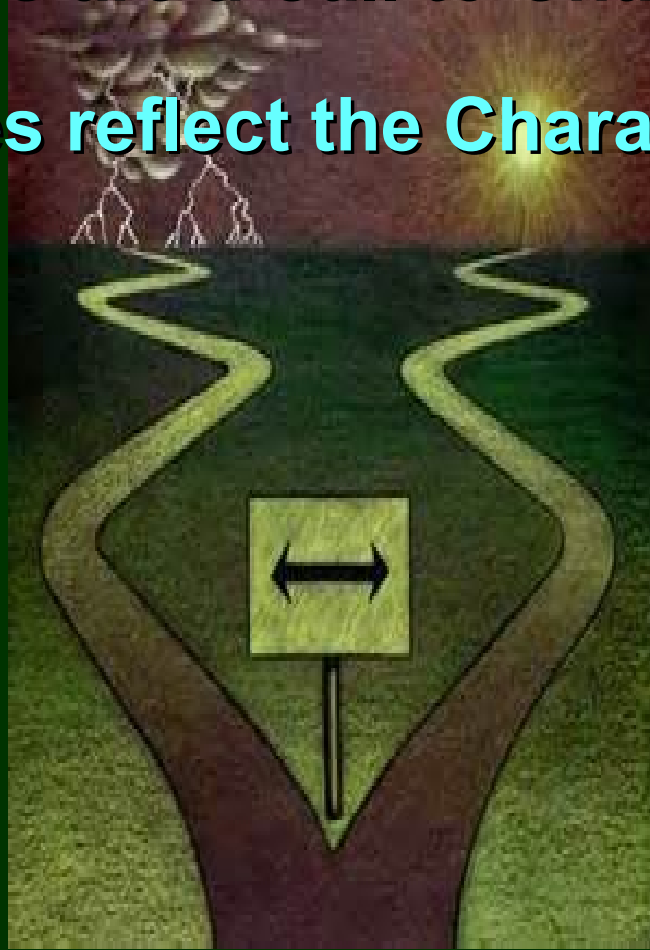
1. The Beatitudes are a Call to Character.

“The Beatitudes paint a picture of a Christ-follower. We see him first alone, on his knees before God, acknowledging his spiritual poverty and mourning over it. This makes him meek and gentle in his relationships with others, because he knows his own brokenness. But, at the same time, he *‘hungers & thirsts after righteousness,’* wanting everything God has promised and longing to grow in grace and goodness. Next we see him with others, out in the world. He’s in the thick of it, showing mercy to those battered by adversity and sin. He has a passion to see God’s will be done and seeks to live as a peace-maker. And he perseveres. He doesn’t lose heart when he’s insulted or persecuted for righteousness sake. He does the right thing, even when it’s not popular.” - John R.W. Stott (adapted)

The Beatitudes are SIGNPOSTS telling us we are on the right road

1. The Beatitudes are a Call to Character.

2. The Beatitudes reflect the Character of Jesus.



“Rejoice, You Fools of God”

“In this world, there is a group of people unknown to man & unsung by poets, yet served by the angels. They are all over the globe, & God knows their names. What distinguishes all these undistinguished people? They have set their hopes on God. They take His Word w/ utter seriousness, and they expect His kingly rule to be established in this world. Therefore they are always somewhat out of step with the people of this world, even if they look very much like all the others. They are poor in spirit, while others glory in their possessions & think they know it all. They mourn, while the others seem to be having a ball. They are meek, while the others are pushy. Their hearts burn w/ desire for God. Everybody else is grabbing while the grabbing is good, but they refuse to give up & give in. They are hungry & thirsty for God’s righteousness. In the midst of rugged individualism, they are merciful. Although lust & adultery have become celebrated entertainment, they remain pure in heart. When quarrels erupt, they do not become defensive but establish peace. Today Jesus reaches out His hand over them & says, *“Blessed are you. You’re on the right road. Yours is the Kingdom of Heaven.”*”