

False Prophets & Self-Deception

Building a Solid Foundation

MATTHEW 7:15-28

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Heavenly King,
Advocate, Spirit of Truth,
Who are everywhere present and fill all things,
Treasury of Blessings, Bestower of Life,
Come, and dwell within us;
Cleanse us of all that defiles us,
And, O Good One, save our souls.

- ❑ **How do you distinguish true prophets (teachers) from false ones?**
- ❑ Can't rely on clothing.
- ❑ Can't rely on works or ministry, or signs and miracles.
- ❑ Can't rely on vocabulary.
- ❑ True prophet teaches what the Church teaches; speaks accurately and faithfully on behalf of the Church
- ❑ Lives the true faith
- ❑ False prophets breed error, confusion, division, rebellion, and immorality

False Prophets





**IS YOUR
HOUSE
BUILT ON
A SOLID
FOUNDATION?**



Building on solid foundation



- ❑ Sermon ends with concern about good housing; Jesus was a builder by trade
- ❑ Final illustration – two men building homes; both the same; different foundations
- ❑ Storms will test the integrity of the homes

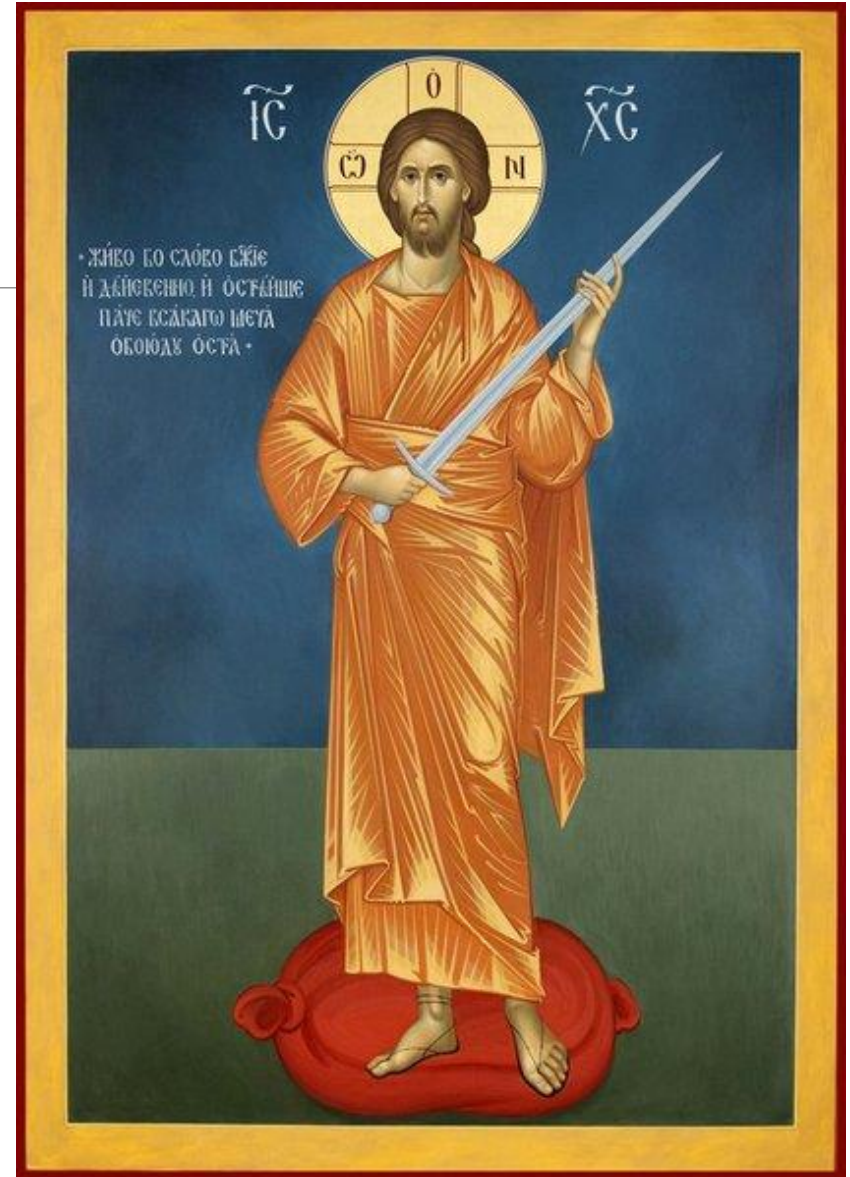


We are all building a life

- ☐ Is Jesus the foundation?
- ☐ **We will all be tested...**
- ☐ **Life presents storms:** strong temptations, crushing personal loss, prosperity, sickness
- ☐ **Important to learn from the storms;** is my life built on firm foundation – I can still fix it
- ☐ **Final storm** – death and judgment
- ☐ **Some houses will stand; and some will fall**
- ☐ Jesus had a lot to say about heaven and hell (Gehenna), light and darkness, two roads, two gates,

Crowds were astonished

- ❑ Jesus taught with authority
- ❑ **The Judge** of the universe preached the Sermon on the Mount
- ❑ **Sermon on the Mount** – not just a moral code; a **two-edged sword** that cuts to the heart
- ❑ Should come away from it with “poverty of spirit”



Blessed are the poor in spirit

- ❑ In Greek, two words for poor. Word used is *ptochos* = destitute, totally helpless
- ❑ In Hebrew, *ani* and *abion* describe humble person, the “poor man” who trusts in God
- ❑ In Scripture, “the poor” = humble, uninfluential, detached, aware of own helplessness, put trust in God
- ❑ Jesus is not speaking about economic poverty



**Blessed the
poor in spirit;
the kingdom
of heaven
is theirs!**

Matthew 5:3

Blessed are they who mourn

- ❑ *When do we mourn or grieve?*
- ❑ Greek word used here is the strongest word for mourning the death of a loved one.
- ❑ Blessing experienced in this life; fullness in next



**“Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.”**

-Matthew 5:4

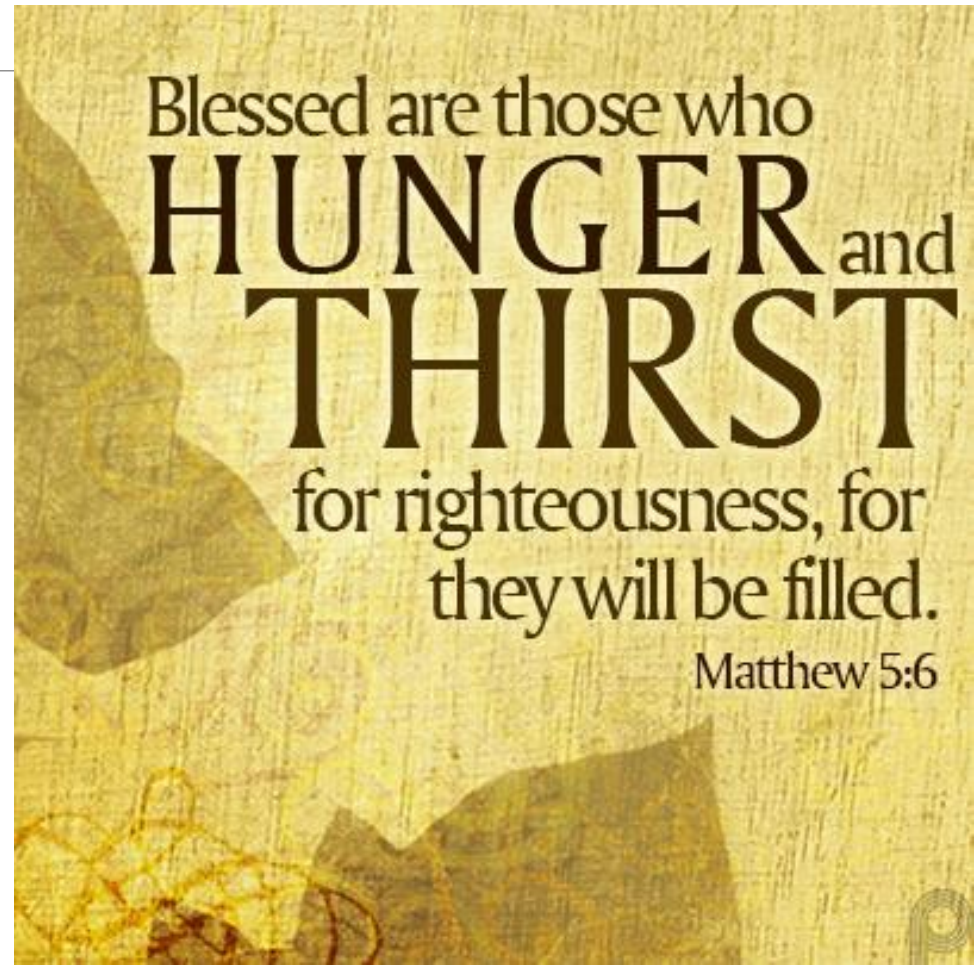
Blessed are the meek

- ❑ *Meek?*
- ❑ Gentle, yet firm; self-controlled; recognizes own weakness and ignorance; inner strength to restrain from inappropriate anger and discouragement
- ❑ Earth (Land) = reference to the kingdom of God



Blessed are those who hunger and thirst...

- ❑ Desire to live right, according to God's will; a desire for holiness
- ❑ Blessing experienced in this life, and the next; see Mt 6:33
- ❑ **God's Holiness** – his absolute perfection, set part, otherness
- ❑ God is the source of all holiness (perfection)



Blessed are the merciful

- ❑ **God's Justice** – penetrates into the heart of all things, and sees the truth
- ❑ **God's Love and Mercy** – His greatest attribute; it unites us to the Creator
- ❑ Called to imitate Jesus
- ❑ Important to extend forgiveness; to be patient and understanding



Blessed are the pure in heart

- ❑ *What is the heart?*
- ❑ *How do we see God?*
- ❑ *How will be see God?*



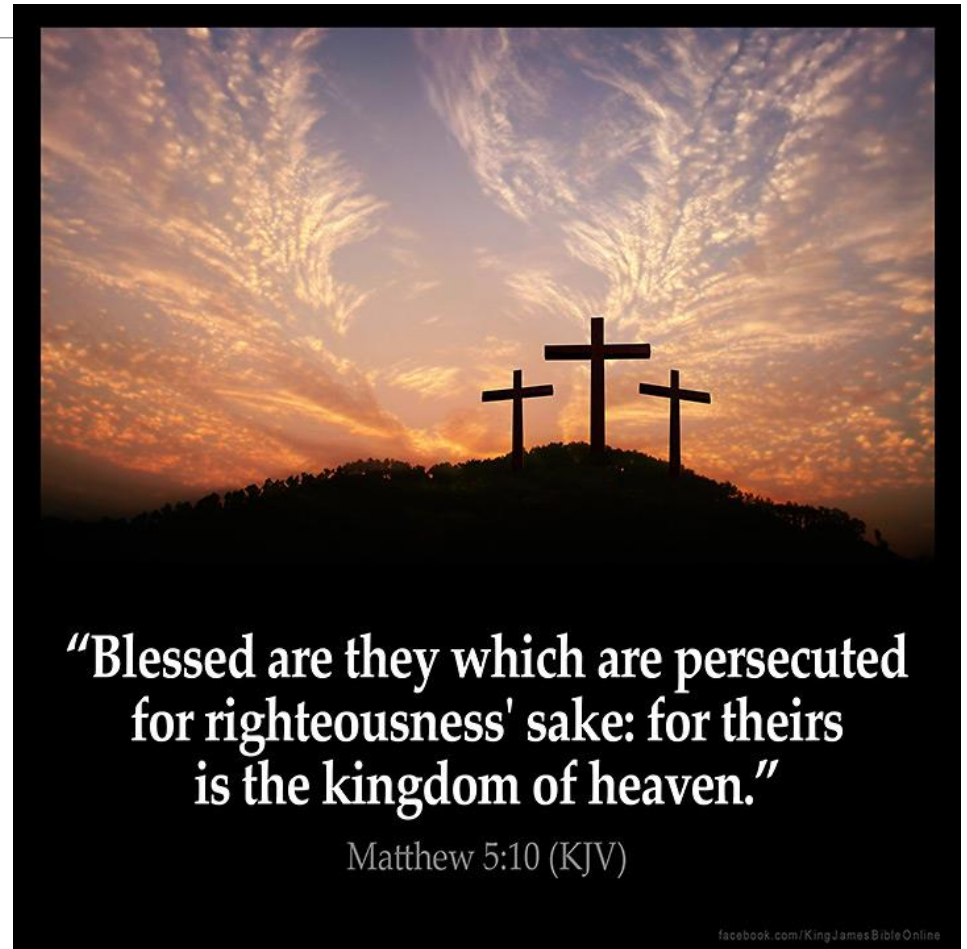
Blessed are the peacemakers

- ❑ Being reconciled and at peace with God
- ❑ Being reconciled and at peace with others
- ❑ To bring peace and harmony, where there is division and discord
- ❑ To share the Gospel



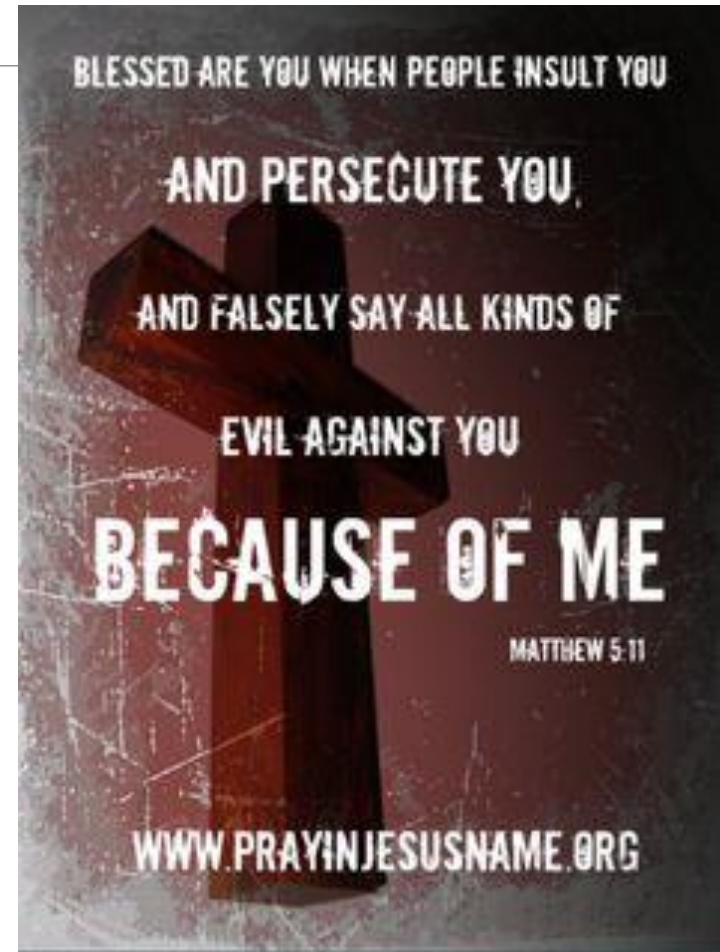
Blessed are those who are persecuted

- ❑ To purify a soul, God uses whatever instruments He likes.
- ❑ Often, good intentions and actions are misinterpreted by others; as a result, suffer persecution (harsh criticism, unkind words, coldness, disrespect, mockery, rejection).
- ❑ If accept it, allow God to work in us and prepare us.



Blessed are you when men revile you

- ❑ Refers to those who are slandered, abused, oppressed, tortured, or martyred for their public witness to Christ
- ❑ Great reward awaits them in the coming kingdom of God



Be Salt and Light (Mt 5:13-16)

- ❑ Salt – associated with purity; used to preserve; important for giving flavour
- ❑ Christians are the be the salt of the earth.
What does this mean?
- ❑ Jerusalem was to be a lamp set on a hill
- ❑ Christians – called to be a lamp, bearing light

