

SERMON OUTLINE JANUARY 29, 2017

Them's Fightin' Words!

Matthew 5:1-12

INTRODUCTION: *Don't let the beauty of Jesus' words lull you into a peaceful sleep . . .*

I. THE BEATITUDES SEEM TO PRESENT A FORMULA OF "IF-THEN"

- A. This makes the Christian Faith a religion of "payoffs"
- B. Often we live the Christian life grudgingly with the hope of getting a payoff from God
- C. At this point the Beatitudes snap closed on us like a trap (*Matthew 5:48*)

II. IF WE READ THE BEATITUDES LIKE A WALL POSTER SLOGAN, WE'RE IN WORSE SHAPE

- A. We try to live in two worlds: "Sunday religion" & "real life"
- B. The beatitudes offer only two choices: be blessed by the world's standards or by God
- C. Here's where they truly become *fightin' words*



III. THE BEATITUDES ARE MEANT FOR THOSE WHO KNOW THEY ARE HELPLESS

- A. Helpless . . . but who knows where/Who their help is
- B. He Who spoke the beatitudes, **is the Beatitude**
- C. Persecution and death is the outcome/the end of the beatitudes (*Matthew 5:12*)
- D. Persecution and death is where the beatitudes begin!! (*1 Corinthians 15:55-57*)
- E. The beatitudes describe the life of those who have life in Jesus' name - now

CONCLUSION: *Them blessed fightin' words!* (*Revelation 2:10*)