

I. Main Points of In this Study

- A. The SOTM is the unveiling of the heart of the King and an invitation to walk in the fullness of the life of the Kingdom that God made available to us through the New Covenant. Jesus gives us eight aspects (the beatitudes) of the fullness of life and love that He walks in and encourages us to position our hearts to be transformed into His likeness. (Rom 8:1-6; Heb. 9:1-14)
- B. In His relentless pursuit of the fullness of love, not only did Jesus die and rise again on our behalf to free us from death within, but continues to expose areas of death in our heart that hinder us in growing into the fullness. (Heb. 12:25-29; Rev. 1:14)
- C. **The only form of true growth and love in the life of a believer is found only in the transformative effects of beholding Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. Any other form of Christian disciplines or activities will result in vain legalism or idealistic fantasy if they are devoid of beholding Jesus.** We must set this understanding in place as absolutely imperative as we continue in the SOTM.
 1. In my opinion, many Christians totally miss beholding Jesus in their study and application of the SOTM and end up in frustration, disillusionment, legalism, or hypocrisy. The reason being, they are attempting to live out something divine, devoid of the Way of divine growth. (2 Cor. 3; Col. 3; 2 Pet. 1)
 2. Jesus is disclosing His Heart – If the only way to truly be transformed in our hearts is to behold Jesus and His Heart then our conclusion must be: Every time Jesus exhorts us to be or act a certain way He is revealing His heart or nature to us. (Mat. 5:48, 20:28; 15:12-13)
 3. Specific Beholding vs. General Beholding – If we are struggling with, or exhorted to be transformed into a certain aspect of Gods character or righteousness then that is the specific aspect we must behold. (Rom. 15:7; 2 Cor. 5:14; Eph. 5:2, 25; Col. 3:13; 1 Pet. 2:21-23)

II. Beholding the Beauty of the King

- A. Beatitudes - Jesus starts this Sermon with a section that has become known as the Beatitudes, these eight heart conditions are given as the purpose and context of the rest of the sermon. They are considered as the essential components of the spiritual life of the believer and an onramp to the culture of the Kingdom of God. It is essential that we understand the beatitudes are the foundation upon which everything else Jesus tells us in this discourse is built upon. (Salt and Light, You will know them by their Fruits, Narrow way to Life, Wise Builder etc...)

“It is the Glory of God to conceal a matter, but the Glory of Kings to search out a matter.
(Pro. 25:2)

1. Discloser of Beauty – The fact that the beatitudes are the foundational purpose and context of the SOTM carries with it some major implications that must be considered. These beatitudes are so much more than a good idea or idealistic poetry. Jesus is revealing the deep things of His love to us and inviting us to behold and be transformed by them. In His humility, Jesus rarely does this and we must consider ourselves walking on Holy ground as His discloses the depths of Himself to us. (Ex. 34:6-8; Mat. 11:29; 1 Cor. 2:6-16)
 - **Poor In Spirit** – His desire for intimacy with God compelled Him to choose to empty Himself and rely only upon the words and help of His Father.
 - **Mourn for the Kingdom** – Jesus carries a constant yearning and mourning to come and institute His rule and reign upon the earth to restore all things.
 - **Meek** – Jesus restrains His personal power and strength for the higher purposes of righteousness.
 - **Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness** – Jesus hungers to carry His heart and walk in the fullness of love and life that perfect righteousness brings.
 - **Merciful** – Jesus is compassionate over our fallen state and desires and actively works to free us from that state.
 - **Pure in Heart** – Jesus loves with absolute sincerity, with an undivided heart, without reservation, and without expectation.
 - **Peacemakers** – Jesus is zealous and active in working for the total elimination of contention and war in hearts towards God and towards man.
 - **Persecuted** – Jesus’s heart embraces persecution of righteousness.
2. The beatitudes are the litmus test or the evidence of the transformation of the heart. From a personal or ministerial perspective we should be looking at the beatitudes as we measure or validate spiritual growth or ministry impact. According to God, success is not determined by how many people you have influence over or how many you have led to the Lord, but rather are the beatitudes operating in your heart and does your influence on others result in the same? (Eph. 5:1-17; Gal. 5:13-26; 1 Tim. 3:1-16)

III. Contending for Transformation

- A. After Jesus lays out the Beatitudes as the goal of Gods will for our lives, He spends the rest of His teaching instructing us how to move forward in the destiny of becoming like Him. Jesus gives us 6 Hindrances, 4 Positioners, and 5 Exhortations as He encourages and implores us to grow in intimacy with Him and be transformed by His beauty. (Mat. 25:1-4)
1. Hindrances - Six Aspects of the Fallen Heart or Old Man that are being transformed/put to death in the garden of our heart. (Mat. 5:21-48)
 - Murder (Hatred)
 - Immorality (Lust)
 - Divorce (Treachery)
 - Lying (Manipulation)
 - Revenge (Pride)
 - Animosity (Unforgiveness)
 2. Positioners - Four activities that position us to encounter Jesus and be transformed (Mat. 6:1-34)
 - Charitable Deeds (Giving of yourself for the gain of others)
 - Prayer (Meditation, Contemplation, Intercession and Dialogue)
 - Fasting (Prioritizing Spiritual Comfort over Physical Comfort)
 - Giving (Prioritizing Spiritual Security over Physical Security)
 3. Exhortations – Jesus addresses the challenges of pursuing the SOTM lifestyle, assures our hearts, and establishes us with truths of this wisdom that anchor us in our pursuit of intimacy with Him and the fullness of kingdom life in this age. (Mat. 7:1-29)
 - Judging according to God, not man.
 - Relentless Dependence upon God.
 - Embracing the difficulty of the counter cultural lifestyle.
 - Intentional community with people in likeminded pursuit.
 - Prioritizing of the SOTM above all other forms of discipleship and ministry.