

You have heard it said...

Notes from Llew Edwards

Virtual Vestry – the rest of Matthew 5

Some observations up for discussion – I have supplied a second document [NOTES] made up mainly of some ‘friends’ of mine ;-)) for your extra reading.

Last Sabbath in Steve’s class some wonderful insights were made – here are some – sprinkled among my somewhat random thoughts, this week. [I won’t name people in case I get it wrong 😊]:

- Read Matt 4:23-25 and answer the questions: What is the gospel [good news] of the Kingdom? The people in the passage, I assume, are the audience of the sermon on the mount – what would have been the good news to them?
- The beatitudes of ...Ben Sirach 25:7-9
*“I can think of nine whom I would call blessed, and a tenth my tongue proclaims:
a man who can rejoice in his children;
a man who lives to see the downfall of his foes.
Happy the man who lives with a sensible wife,
and the one who does not plough with ox and ass together.
Happy is the one who does not sin with his tongue
and the one who has not served an inferior.
Happy is the one who finds a friend and the one who speaks to attentive listeners.”*
Apparently Jewish rabbis liked to preface their teaching with a list of values that they considered blessed. How do the values of the Sirach differ from the values Jesus outlines in His beatitudes?
- It’s not purity that is blessed but purity of heart. Look through the sermon and note the number of references to ‘heart’ and to thoughts/actions that have to do with our hearts – could we name this Kingdom the “Kingdom of the heart”?
- Our main work is salt - unseen & pervasive. What are Christians who are flavourless? What should be done to them?
What is the difference between salt and light witnessing?
- Mercy without law is meaningless. Think that through – true or not true?
Have you ever met a person named “least”?

- Our section finishes with Matt 5:48. Does the standard of being perfect give you problems? Why perfect like “your” heavenly father is?