*"Makarios"* You Are

Matthew 5:1-12

"*Makarios*" is not a very popular name, but listening to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, you will desire to have it.

The "Sermon of the Mount" is the most memorable message ever delivered. Jesus preached this sermon and Matthew recorded it in his gospel, chapters 5, 6 and 7. We do not know if this was one single long sermon, or it was preached in series. It does not matter. What matters is that Jesus unveiled the kingdom in heaven, which is the Kingdom of God. Jesus set the prerequisites to be part of it and He also made it available to all. "The kingdom is at hand" Jesus had declared and to enjoy it He called for repentance and the new way of living. This sermon therefore is the biblical guideline to the new life, and it is a life of peace and true happiness which we should all desire to have it.

Jesus began His sermon with a series of proverb-like statements which are known as the beatitudes. The term "*Beatitude"* is the translation of the Latin word "*Makarios"* and it means to be happy or blessed. But the way Jesus used the term here, seemed contradicting to the condition of happiness people expect to have in this world. While people consider material prosperity in life as the source of happiness, Jesus said, "blessed or "Makarios" are the poor, the meek, those who mourn or are persecuted, for they will inherit the Kingdom." Perhaps it is this statement that makes the name "Makarios" unpopular, but Jesus explained that "Makarios" is the way to the kingdom of God and it is different from how people imagine it to be.

To inherit or be part of the Kingdom of God, you need to live for God and not for the world. You must be ready to say and do what seems to be strange to the world. You must be willing to give when others take. You must love when others hate. You must help when others abuse. You must sacrifice when others take advantage. You must make peace when others use violence. And finally you must forgive when others blame. Doing so you might be mocked and might face suffering and persecution, but that will be only in this world and temporary. Meanwhile though you will have peace and be happy in the kingdom, which is here as Jesus said.

What Jesus proclaimed was not only a lip service or preaching to others. Jesus made himself "Makarios" as he experienced what He preached. Remember, Jesus lived a humble life and He served. He was mocked, persecuted and was crucified. It was a heavy burden that He carried, a sour cup that He drank from and willingly He gave His life. But God glorified Him in heaven, where He now sits on the right side of God, and He is the personification of the name "Makarios".

Friends, what the Bible teaches about life might seem to contradict to what you desire or hope for. The Bible might lead you to the narrow gate. Never mind. Remember "*Makarios"* you will be if you enter it and "Makarios" you will be called if you walk through it. Jesus will lead you to the Kingdom the taste of which you will also enjoy on your way.

Amen