

ANTON TEN KLOOSTER

THOMAS AQUINAS
ON THE BEATITUDES

Reading Matthew, Disputing Grace and Virtue,
Preaching Happiness

PEETERS
LEUVEN – PARIS – BRISTOL, CT
2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	i
Introduction	iii

CHAPTER I

Legere, Disputare, Praedicare and the Hermeneutics of Scripture

1.1 Thomas Aquinas as a Master of the Sacred Page	1
1.1.1 A Threefold Hermeneutic of Scripture	1
1.1.2 Renewed Interest in the Biblical Commentaries	3
1.1.3 Thomas Aquinas and Contemporary Theology	8
1.2 Aquinas' Perception of Scripture	10
1.2.1 The Senses of Scripture	10
1.2.2 The Purpose of Sacred Scripture	15
1.2.3 The Unity of Scripture	19
1.3 Searching for the Meaning of Scripture	21
1.3.1 Scripture, <i>Auctoritas</i> , and Tradition	21
1.3.2 Aquinas and Augustine	22
1.3.3 Tools for the Study of Sacred Scripture	23
1.3.4 Dividing the Text	26
1.4 Conclusion: Aquinas' Interpretation of Scripture	27

CHAPTER II

Background and Structure of the Commentary on Matthew

2.1 The Text of the Commentary on Matthew	30
2.1.1 Aquinas' Lectures on Matthew	30
2.1.2 Witnesses to the Lectures	33
2.1.3 Reception of the <i>Reportationes</i>	37

2.1.4 Traces of the Reporting Process·····	40
2.1.5 Further Questions and Remarks about the <i>Reportationes</i> ·	41
2.1.6 The Basel Manuscript and the Beatitudes ·····	42
2.2 Thomas Aquinas' Perception of the Gospel of Matthew·	45
2.2.1 Discussions of the Nature of the Gospel of Matthew ·····	45
2.2.2 Matthew and the Human Nature of Christ·····	47
2.2.3 <i>Doctrina</i> as Ordering Principle for the Commentary ·····	48
2.2.4 <i>Divisio Textus</i> in the Commentary on Matthew·····	51
2.3 Central Themes of the Commentary on Matthew·····	52
2.3.1 Historical Background of the Commentary·····	52
2.3.1.1 <i>Vita Apostolica</i> ·····	53
2.3.1.2 Preaching ·····	55
2.3.1.3 Heresy ·····	56
2.3.2 Treatises in the Commentary ·····	58
2.4 The Senses of Scripture ·····	60
2.4.1 Establishing the Literal Sense ·····	60
2.4.2 Use of the Spiritual Sense·····	61
2.5 Conclusion: The Commentary as a Source ·····	63

CHAPTER III

Legere: The Way of the Beatitudes

3.1 The Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount·····	68
3.1.1 The Sermon on the Mount and the Sermon on the Plain ··	68
3.1.2 The Number and Order of the Beatitudes·····	69
3.1.3 The Addressees of the Beatitudes and the Sermon ·····	71
3.1.4 Relation of the Beatitudes to the Precepts of the Sermon ·	72
3.2 <i>Beatitudo</i> and the Beatitudes·····	74

3.2.1 The Preface as the Key to the Commentary	74
3.2.2 ' <i>Beatitudo</i> '	75
3.2.2.1 Happiness and Eudaimonism	75
3.2.2.2 The Adequate Description of Human Happiness	78
3.2.2.3 ' <i>Theoria</i> ' and Contemplation as Ultimate Happiness	81
3.2.3 Law: From Decalogue to Beatitudes	84
3.2.4 Merit: "Blessed are..."	86
3.2.5 The Grace of the Holy Spirit	88
3.2.6 Reward: "... theirs is the kingdom of heaven"	91
3.2.7 Merit, Reward, and Cooperation with Grace	93
3.3 The Way of the Beatitudes	96
3.3.1 A Path of Perfection	96
3.3.2 Living the Beatitudes	101
3.3.2.1 "Blessed are the poor in spirit"	102
3.3.2.2 "Blessed are the meek"	104
3.3.2.3 "Blessed are they who mourn"	105
3.3.2.4 "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice"	106
3.3.2.5 "Blessed are the merciful"	107
3.3.2.6 "Blessed are the clean of heart"	109
3.3.2.7 "Blessed are the peacemakers"	111
3.3.3 Silver Purified Seven Times	113
3.3.4 Merit and Reward	114
3.4 The Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Human Person	115
3.4.1 Development of the Theology of the Gifts	115
3.4.2 The Gifts in Christ and in the Christian	117
3.5 Conclusion: A Structure of Moral Perfection	120

CHAPTER IV

Disputare: The Beatitudes in the Summa Theologiae

4.1 The <i>Disputatio</i> and the <i>Summa Theologiae</i>	124
4.1.1 The <i>Summa</i> as a Literary Form of Disputation	124
4.2 Aquinas' Earlier Interpretations of the Beatitudes	125
4.2.1 Contemporary Discussions and the Sentences	125
4.2.2 The Gifts: Commentary on Isaiah 11:3	128
4.2.3 The Fruits: Commentary on Galatians 5:22	131
4.2.4 Acts of the Gifts as a Form of Heroic Virtue	133
4.2.5 Semi-Pelagianism and the Need for a New Distinction	136
4.3 The Beatitudes in the Structure of the <i>Summa Theologiae</i>	140
4.3.1 Virtues, Gifts, Beatitudes, and Fruits in the <i>Summa</i>	140
4.3.2 Relevant Discussions of the Beatitudes in the <i>Summa</i>	141
4.3.3 The Structure of the <i>Summa Theologiae</i>	142
4.3.3.1 Happiness in the Structure of the <i>Summa</i>	144
4.3.3.2 Virtues, Gifts, Beatitudes, Fruits in the <i>Secunda Pars</i>	145
4.3.3.3 The Beatitudes Complete the Treatise on Happiness	147
4.3.3.4 New Proposal for the Entire <i>Secunda Pars</i>	149
4.4 Virtues, Gifts, Beatitudes, and Fruits in the <i>Prima Secundae</i>	154
4.4.1 The Distinction Between Acquired and Infused Virtues ..	154
4.4.2 The Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Beatitudes	157
4.4.2.1 The Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Virtues	159
4.4.2.2 The Theological Virtues and the Gifts	161
4.4.3 The Beatitudes as Acts of the Gifts	162
4.4.3.1 Reward and the Reign of the Holy Spirit	165
4.4.3.2 Merit and Reward in the Active and Contemplative Life	167
4.4.4 The Fruits of the Holy Spirit	170

4.4.4.1 The Beatitudes as Fruits	172
4.4.4.2 The Interiority of the Fruits	173
4.4.4.3 The Fruits as the Supervenient End of the Beatitudes ...	175
4.4.4.4 Happiness as the Fruition of God	177
4.4.5 The New Synthesis of the <i>Prima Secundae</i>	178
4.4.5.1 The Function of the Beatitudes in the <i>Prima Secundae</i> ·	180
4.5 The Beatitudes in the <i>Secunda Secundae</i>	181
4.5.1 Objective and Organization of the <i>Secunda Secundae</i>	181
4.5.2 Connection of Virtues, Gifts, Beatitudes, and Fruits	184
4.5.3 The Actions of the Beatitudes	186
4.5.3.1 Charity, Wisdom, and Peace: The Perfection of Life ...	192
4.5.4 Our Father: Ordering Desire toward the Ultimate End ...	194
4.5.4.1 The Petitions and the Gift of the Holy Spirit	197
4.6 Conclusion: The Beatitudes as Way in the <i>Secunda Pars</i>	199

CHAPTER V

Praedicare: The Beatitudes in Aquinas' Sermons

5.1 Thomas Aquinas the Preacher	204
5.1.1 Preaching to the Academy	204
5.1.2 The Vocation of the Preacher	205
5.1.3 Studying the Sermons	207
5.1.4 The <i>Sermo Modernus</i> and its Sources	209
5.2 The Beatitudes in the Sermons for All Saints	210
5.2.1 Preaching on the Solemnity of All Saints	210
5.2.2 <i>Beati qui habitant</i>	211
5.2.3 <i>Beata gens</i>	214
5.2.4 Happiness is Eternal: The Parisian Debates	217

5.2.5 The Communion of Saints and the Beatitudes	219
5.2.6 The Answer to the Question of Happiness.....	221
5.2.7 The Sermons in Relation to the Commentary and <i>Summa</i>	223
5.3 The Beatitudes in the <i>Collationes</i> on the Our Father	228
5.3.1 Characteristics and Text of the <i>Collationes</i>	228
5.3.2 <i>Beatitudo</i> as the End of the Our Father.....	230
5.3.3 The Gifts of the Holy Spirit.....	231
5.3.4 From Gifts to Petitions, from Petitions to Beatitudes	233
5.4.5 The <i>Collationes</i> and the Sermons for All Saints	235
5.3.6 Relation to the Commentary on Matthew and the <i>Summa</i>	236
5.4 Conclusion: Prayer and Action on the Way to Happiness	238

CONCLUSION

The Way of the Christian Life	241
Bibliography	249
Appendices	273
A – Text of the Basel manuscript on Mt. 5:1-10	274
B - The Structure of the Old Testament in <i>Hic est liber</i>	290
C - The Compilation of an Edition of the Commentary	292
D - The Advance of Christ through the World.....	294
E - Alignments of Gifts and Beatitudes in <i>Secunda Secundae</i>	296
F - The Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes	298
Indices	300
Summary	311