

January 31, 2021

Happy
Matthew 5:1-12

Greek: *makarios* - “**blessed**”, “**happy**”, “**congratulations**”

What the Beatitudes are NOT:

Matthew 5:3-11

- It's not a list of **virtues**.
- It's not a list of **commands**.
- It's not a list of **timeless truths**.

What the Beatitudes are:

Matthew 11:28-30

- It is the **GOSPEL**.
- It is Jesus radically redefining **who is blessed**.

The only way to make sense of Jesus' list of blessings, is in light of the **Kingdom of God**.

Matthew 5:11-12 / Philippians 4:10-13

Final Thought: The Kingdom of Heaven is both a **present reality** and a **future hope**.

Life Group Questions

- 1) Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
- 2) Can you think of a time when you have felt:
 - a) Spiritually bankrupt, simple, or like you had little to offer God? (Matthew 5:3)
 - b) Sad, depressed, grieved? (Matthew 5:4)
 - c) Imposed on by others, frightened, or submissive? (Matthew 5:5)
 - d) Far from God, or unable to worship because of your broken relationship with others? (Matthew 5:6)

Re-read the hope that Jesus gives in response to people in His Kingdom to each of these feelings.

DIGGING DEEPER

One example of a person who is poor in spirit is found in **Luke 18:9-14**. Take a moment to read this passage and answer the following questions:

- (3) *Who was in Jesus' original audience when He told this parable?*
- (4) *Which person in this passage meets the definition of "poor in spirit?" What about his posture and his words exhibit this?*
- (5) *What was wrong with the Pharisee's "prayer"?*
- (6) *Jesus closes this passage with another paradox: "Those who exalt themselves will be humbled..." Does this tie into the Beatitude we're discussing? Why or why not?*

Read **Matthew 26:47-68** and answer the following questions related to Jesus' meekness:

- (7) When Jesus was being arrested and put on trial before the Sanhedrin, how did He display a meek spirit?
- (8) What could He have done instead (v. 53)?
- (9) How does His meek spirit show His incredible love for us?

(10) Christian growth comes from “looking up, looking in, and looking out”— looking up to God, looking into myself and my personal relationship with God, and then looking out to the needs around me. This week Matt said that righteousness was not just about having a right relationship with God, but having a right relationship with others. How does “*hungering and thirsting for righteousness*” cause us to look up, in, or out (or some combination of the three)?

(11) Read **Micah 6:8**. Is there a person right now whom God is bringing to mind who needs mercy rather than judgment from you?

Read Matthew 6:33 and Psalm 32:5 and answer the following questions:

(12) The Pharisees were fixated on cleaning only the externals of their lives but ignored the inner life which could produce justice, mercy, and faith. (See Matthew 23:23-25 for reference.) How does God’s Word recommend addressing this problem?

(13) How does this relate to the other Beatitudes?

(14) Is there a relationship in your life in which you need to seek to bring peace? What steps can you take this week to move towards peace in that relationship?

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back on this week’s sermon and study, what’s most important for you to remember?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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