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**TITLE:** The Most Blessed Life Ever

**WRITTEN BY:** George Carballo

**MAIN SCRIPTURE VERSE OR PASSAGE:** Matthew 5:1–10

**IN ONE SENTENCE WHAT IS IT YOU WANT THE STUDENTS TO HEAR:** This is how Jesus called us to live.

**SERMON MATERIALS NEEDED:** None

**OPENING ILLUSTRATION/STORY/OBJECT LESSON:**

Have you ever wondered what it takes to have true happiness? Not the happiness that comes from eating your favorite candy or the happiness you feel when you see a puppy. I’m talking about an extreme sense of joy—different from any other feeling you might experience in life.

The Sermon on the Mount is probably Jesus’ most well-known sermon. At the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spent the first part of this message with something called the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are a series of statements where Jesus taught us how life should be for a person who follows Him. He was establishing the values of His kingdom.

In some translations, each statement begins with the word *blessed*, which can be understood as *happy*. But, this is not a happiness in the traditional sense. Think of it as happy times a million. Blessed is a state of fortunate well-being in relationship to God.

So, today, I would like to go through each one and review what it takes to have the most blessed life ever.

**POINT 1:** “God Blesses Those Who Are Poor and Realize Their Need for Him, for the Kingdom of Heaven Is Theirs”

What does it mean to be poor in spirit? We often equate being poor or experiencing poverty with lack of finances or material possessions, but when Jesus adds, “and realize their need for him,” it refers to something deeper than possessions. He’s referring to a state of being spiritually bankrupt—a sense of having nothing without God. The poor who realize their need for God recognize they need to rely on God and ask for His help. It’s when we get to this point that we can finally inherit the kingdom of heaven.

**APPLICATION:**

Do you find your fulfillment only through things that don’t matter like material possessions? Or are you dependent on God for everything and satisfied in Him? Our dependency on God for everything is where it all starts. This is what Jesus wanted to communicate.

**POINT 2:** “God Blesses Those Who Mourn, for They Will Be Comforted.”

*Mourning* means to express deep sorrow or grief. But when Jesus spoke about mourning, He was not just referring to crying or feeling sad over the loss of someone or something dear to us like we might typically think. He was also referring to a mourning over the state of our human condition—mourning for one’s own sin. It’s only when we mourn at our depravity, or our sinfulness, that we will find comfort and rest in His grace.

**APPLICATION:**

When was the last time you mourned for your sin? Our challenge as Christians is to always be aware of our sin problem and to allow God to help us address it. Our sin separates us from God and without the Holy Spirit leading us toward Him, we will always be apart from God.

**POINT 3:** “God Blesses Those Who Are Humble, for They Will Inherit the Whole Earth.”

What does it mean to be *meek*? A lot of times when we hear this word, we immediately associate it with someone who is weak. However, meekness is not a weakness. In fact, it’s a strength. Meekness is a sense of humility. In the New Living Translation and some other translations, *humble* is used instead of *meek*. Meekness is the ability to take the higher ground instead of showcasing our pride. We inherit the earth when we do not push our own agendas, but when we walk in humility, allowing God to take control.

**APPLICATION:**

As Christians, we cannot live a prideful life. Humility is not just what we need to practice, it’s ultimately who we need to be. Imagine Jesus on the cross: He could have used His power and authority to come off the cross, but He remained silent and did what God had called Him to do because of His humility and great love for us.

**POINT 4:** “God Blesses Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Justice, for They Will Be Satisfied.”

What does it mean to hunger and thirst for justice? This Scripture is not speaking about a hunger and thirst for physical food or drink. It’s not craving our favorite pizza, burger, or the best home-cooked meal. This is a pursuit of the God’s righteous character in our life and in our world. As Christians, our desire should always be centered around being more like Him. When we pursue His character in our life, only then will we truly be filled and satisfied.

**APPLICATION:**

What are you hungry for? Is it entertainment, a dating relationship, money? Or is it God’s justice, humility, and purity? It’s so easy to get caught up in all of the things this world offers that we prioritize other things above God and our relationship with Him. I invite you to take a serious look at yourself and examine whether you hunger and thirst for God.

**POINT 5:** “God Blesses Those Who Are Merciful, for They Will Be Shown Mercy.”

This statement is literally a kingdom turned upside-down. Jesus is calling us to be a people of grace and mercy. We trust our merciful God to forgive us for our sins. And we should follow that example by showing mercy toward others. Our challenge is to extend compassion and consideration to people who desperately need it. As Christians, our heart should always bend toward extending kindness toward everyone, whether or not we think they deserve it.

**APPLICATION:**

Are you merciful toward others? Do you demonstrate grace when others fail? Do you expect grace in return without showing it to others?

**POINT 6:** “God Blesses Those Whose Hearts Are Pure, for They Will See God.”

In contrast to the Jewish traditions of that day that often emphasized a ritual purity, Jesus was teaching people to strive to be pure in heart. This moved the idea of purity deeper than what could be seen through outward expressions. Jesus’ brand of purity is from the inside out. It begins in the heart and when we allow God to purify us inwardly, we will see Him work in ways like never before.

**APPLICATION:**

Examine your heart. Better yet, examine your motives. Are they pure in heart?

**POINT 7:** “God Blesses Those Who Work for Peace, for They Will Be Called the Children of God.”

What does it mean to work for peace? Maybe you think of an ambassador of one country being sent to another country to help declare and keep peace between the two parties. In reality, the Kingdom works similar to this too. The Bible states that we are “Christ’s ambassadors” (2 Corinthians 5:20) and we are sent to declare the peace that only God can give. The message of peace is through Jesus Christ alone, and when we go out and declare it, He calls us His sons and daughters.

**APPLICATION:**

As Christians, we are called to bring peace to all and to declare His message of salvation. Are you doing this? When was the last time you helped bring peace to someone?

**POINT 8:** “God Blesses Those Who Are Persecuted for Doing Right, for the Kingdom of Heaven Is Theirs.”

Jesus mentioned there will be people persecuted for doing right, or the sake of righteousness. There will always be people who disagree with those who stand up for what is right and pursue the character of Jesus. They will insult, lie, and speak all kinds of things against these people. However, Jesus’ promise is that those who do right will be blessed. In fact, they are the ones who are heirs to the kingdom of heaven.

**APPLICATION:**

Would you be ready to face persecution if you were being bold for Jesus? What would you do if your friends didn’t agree with you? How would you react to people insulting or making fun of you for being a Christian?

**CLOSING CHALLENGE/APPLICATION:**

As Christians, we should desire to have and pursue each of these characteristics. Through this sermon, Jesus was setting the foundation for His kingdom—one that is distinct and stands apart from any earthly kingdom.

He challenges us to live a life beyond what we are living right now. He wants us to crave a new life that is filled with real blessing. It’s not artificial or temporary, but that doesn’t mean it’s easy. But it’s worth it because it is a life of blessing beyond what we can hope for. It’s *true* happiness.

I want to encourage you to go back to the first Beatitude—“God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him.” I challenge you today to find a way to empty yourself and find your satisfaction in God only.

**ALTAR RESPONSE:**

Consider this: What type of life are you pursuing right now? Are you allowing Jesus to guide you in every area of your life? Find a place to pray and ask yourself, “Am I truly living how Jesus has called me to live?” Ask God to reveal areas that you need Him to work in, and spend time listening for His direction and guidance.

**POWERPOINT SLIDES**

Slide 1 – The Most Blessed Life Ever, Matthew 5:1–10

Slide 2 – “God Blesses Those Who Are Poor and Realize Their Need for Him, for the Kingdom of Heaven Is Theirs”

Slide 3 – “God Blesses Those Who Mourn, for They Will Be Comforted.”

Slide 4 – “God Blesses Those Who Are Humble, for They Will Inherit the Whole Earth.”

Slide 5 – “God Blesses Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Justice, for They Will Be Satisfied.”

Slide 6 – “God Blesses Those Who Are Merciful, for They Will Be Shown Mercy.”

Slide 7 – “God Blesses Those Whose Hearts Are Pure, for They Will See God.”

Slide 8 – “God Blesses Those Who Work for Peace, for They Will Be Called the Children of God.”

Slide 9 – “God Blesses Those Who Are Persecuted for Doing Right, for the Kingdom of Heaven Is Theirs.”

**OUTLINE TEMPLATE**

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