

Week 1: The Beatitudes Series—Matthew 5 (link: 0-min 6:55)

(We will be referring to this page & the links each week)

- 3 “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him,
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.
- 4 God blesses those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
- 5 God blesses those who are humble,
for they will inherit the whole earth.
- 6 God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice,
for they will be satisfied.
- 7 God blesses those who are merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
- 8 God blesses those whose hearts are pure,
for they will see God.
- 9 God blesses those who work for peace,
for they will be called the children of God.
- 10 God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right,
for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

11 “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. **12 Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven.**

Note: *God blesses those...*

This same word for blessed — which in some sense means “happy” — is applied to God in 1 Timothy 1:11: according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God. “Makarios then describes that joy which has its secret within itself, that joy which is serene and untouchable, and self-contained, that joy which is completely independent of all the chances and changes of life.” (Barclay)

Our interpretation for “makarios” is similar to “congratulations!” (Staten)

<https://bibleproject.com/videos/matthew-5-3-16-beatitudes/>

Week 1: Notes The Beatitudes Series—Matthew 5

From *Jesus, and the Victory of God* by NT Wright

The sermon is not to be generalized into a set of suggestions, or even commands, on how to be “good.” Nor can it be turned into a guide-map for how to go to “heaven” after death... Rather, it is a challenge to Israel to *be* Israel...

v. 3 Israel longs for YHWH’s kingdom to come, she is ready to work and struggle and fight to bring it in. But the people to whom it belongs are the poor in spirit (not the fighters)...

v. 4 Israel longs for consolation, but YHWH has in mind to give her, not the consolation of a national revival, but the consolation awaiting those who are in genuine grief...

v. 5 Israel desires to inherit the earth; she must do it in Jesus’ way, by meekness...

v. 6 Israel thirsts for justice; but the justice she is offered does not come by way of battles against physical enemies. It is not the way of anger, justice or vengeance. It is the way of humility and gentleness...

v. 7 Israel longs for mercy (final rescue from her enemies), but mercy is reserved for the merciful, not the vengeful...

v. 8 Israel longs for the vision of her god but his is the prerogative not of those who impose external purity but those with purity of heart...

v. 9 Israel longs to be vindicated as sons in a dramatic, historical proof of national victory. But (God vindicates as sons) those who copy their father; and that means peacemakers...

v. 10 Persecution will be inevitable for people who follow this way—Jesus’ way; but those who are persecuted because they follow (HIS) way are indeed assured of great vindication... The promise that would formerly only apply to those who were faithful to Torah (the Law) now applies to those who are faithful to Jesus...

The beatitudes (can be read) as an appeal to Jesus’ hearers to discover their true vocation (as the people of God) and to do so by following the (patterns) he was marking out for them, rather than the way of other would-be leaders.

See also Tyler Staten’s Teaching Series on The Beatitudes:

<https://bridgetown.church/series/the-beatitudes> (8 videos)

Week 2: Matthew 5:3 <https://bibleproject.com/videos/matthew-5-3-16-beatitudes/>
God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.
Congratulations (makarios!) when we realize that Jesus has what we need and receive all that comes with Him!

Pause:
What thoughts & ideas do I need to let go of?
What situations do I need to release to Jesus?
Invite Jesus to restore me, renew me, and teach me.

Reflect:
What had you previously put your trust in for help and satisfaction?
When did those things fail you?
When did you realize only Jesus makes you whole?
What all does the phrase “Kingdom of Heaven” include?

Discussion Questions: from The Bible Project
1. How is being “powerless” seem contradictory to “the good life?”
2. What is “the kingdom of the skies?”
3. Instead of being _____, Jesus offers God’s kingdom to them _____.

Define: poor, humble, contrite, broken spirit (see Isaiah 66:2 & Psalm 51:17)

Discuss: How does Matthew 5:3 oppose the culture and self life?

Corresponding Scripture: How do the following verses apply?
Psalm 25:9 Only _____ hearts can be taught
Ephesians 2:8-9 It is impossible to _____ ourselves
Micah 6:8 We are not God’s _____
Psalm 23:1-3,6 Jesus _____ those who are willing to be guided
& He _____ for them; we don’t have to figure everything out on our own & our future is absolutely wonderful! Makarios!

Conclude: What one thing stuck with you in this lesson?

Week 2: Notes (link to min. 2)
The poor in spirit recognize that they have no spiritual “assets.” They know they are spiritually bankrupt. We might say that the ancient Greek had a word for the “working poor” and a word for the “truly poor.” Jesus used the word for the truly poor here. It indicates someone who must beg for whatever they have or get. (Guzik)

Everyone can start here; it isn’t first blessed are the pure or the holy or the spiritual or the wonderful. Everyone can be poor in spirit. “Not what I have, but what I have not, is the first point of contact, between my soul and God.” (Spurgeon)

They receive the kingdom of heaven, because poverty of spirit is an absolute prerequisite for receiving the kingdom of heaven, and as long as we harbor illusions about our own spiritual resources, we will never receive from God what we absolutely need to be saved. (Guzik)

The call to be poor in spirit is placed first for a reason, because it puts the following commands into perspective. They cannot be fulfilled by one’s own strength, but only by a beggar’s reliance on God’s power. No one mourns until they are poor in spirit; no one is meek towards others until he has a humble view of himself. If you don’t sense your own need and poverty, you will never hunger and thirst after righteousness; and if you have too high a view of yourself, you will find it difficult to be merciful to others. (Guzik)

Isaiah 66:2 *I will bless those who have humble and contrite hearts, who tremble at my word.*
Psalm 51:17 *The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.*
Psalm 25:9 *He leads the humble in doing right, teaching them his way.*
Eph.2:8-9 *God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.*
Micah 6:8 *No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.*
Psalm 23:1-3,6 Familiar

God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Congratulations! _____

Definition: *The weeping is for the low and needy condition of both the individual and society; but with the awareness that they are low and needy because of sin. Those who mourn actually mourn over sin and its effects.* (Guzik)

Pause:

What thoughts & ideas do I need to let go of?

What situations do I need to release to Jesus?

Invite Jesus to restore me, renew me, and teach me.

Review: from The Bible Project

1. God’s heavenly kingdom is coming to the _____.
2. How is “blessed” best translated?
3. What do people lacking power regularly face?

Reflect: What have I mourned over? What did that mourning produce? Would we recognize great joy without great of the opposite? How does Psalm 30:5 apply?

Discuss: What does Paul say that spiritual “mourning” produces and leads to in 2 Corinthians 7:10? *Those who mourn over their sin and their sinful condition are promised comfort. God allows this grief into our lives as a path, not as a destination.* (Guzik)
How does Philipians 3:10 apply?

Think: How does Matthew 5:4 oppose the culture and Self Life? How would Culture and Self Life advise us about comfort? What do the following verses relate about comfort?

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 2 Cor. 1:3-4 | Real comfort comes from _____, the source of it |
| Psalm 23:4 | God’s _____ is comforting |
| Psalm 119:76 | God’s _____ is comforting |
| Matthew 11:28-30 | Jesus’ _____ is the way of comfort not stress |

Conclude: What is Christ revealing to me today about sorrow & comfort?

Thinking about mourning is helpful...

Gut wrenching sadness sticks. We strongly or lightly still carry pangs of a death even long after the initial event. But sorrow over what we’ve done, real repentance, real renouncing, real despair over our mistakes gets real relief. While we may wait for reunions and ultimate tear wiping, Congratulation! You found the place that gets eased today; we do not wait one day for our sins to be erased; He offers it now!

Psalm 30:5 *For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime! Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.* (Similarly, Lam.3:23, *Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.*)

2 Cor. 7:10 *For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There’s no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.*

Phil 3:10 *I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, 11 so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!*

2 Cor. 1:3-4 *All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. 4 He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.*

Psalm 23:4 *Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.*

Psalm 119:76 *Now let your unfailing love comfort me, just as you promised me, your servant.*

Week 4 – Matthew 5:5 <https://bibleproject.com/videos/matthew-5-3-16-beatitudes/>
God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.

Congratulations! _____
Definition: humble (low rank, unimportant, nuttin’ to brag about)

Pause:
What thoughts & ideas do I need to let go of?
What situations do I need to release to Jesus?
Invite Jesus to restore me, renew me, and teach me.

Review: from The Bible Project
1. The “meek” often are looked down upon & have ____ influence.
2. How does Psalm 37:11 fit in?
3. v. 3-5 discuss God’s kingdom coming to whom?

Reflect: How does Matthew 5:5 oppose Culture and Self Life?
How does Culture and Self Life view humble people?
What do the following verses relate about humbleness?
Mat. 6:2 When others are _____ by your bragging, that momentary accolade is all that will ever come of it

Phil. 2:3 Humble means thinking of _____ as better than _____

Phil. 2:5-7 Humbleness includes giving up what I think I’m _____ to; Jesus is actually entitled to divine privileges but served people instead

Reflect: What do the following verses reveal about our “inheritance?”
1 Peter 1:3-4 It is kept _____ for us; we can’t screw it up!
Ephesians 1:11-14 Holy Spirit _____ it!
Romans 8:17 _____ is our inheritance.

Conclude: What is Jesus revealing to me about “inheritance,” my station in life, hope & future?

Week 4 Notes (link to min. 3:04)
Through the first three beatitudes we notice that the natural man finds no happiness or blessedness in spiritual poverty, mourning or meekness. These are only a blessing for the spiritual man, those who are new creatures in Jesus... It is impossible to translate this ancient Greek word praus (meek) with just one English word. It has the idea of the proper balance between anger and indifference, of a powerful personality properly controlled, and of humility. (Guzik)

The first two beatitudes are mostly inward; the third deals with how one relates to one’s fellow man. The first two were mainly negative; the third is clearly positive... To be meek means to show willingness to submit and work under proper authority. It also shows a willingness to disregard one’s own “rights” and privileges... They are meek before God, in that they submit to His will and conform to His Word. They are meek before men, in that they are strong — yet also humble, gentle, patient, and longsuffering. (Guzik)

“It looks as if they would be pushed out of the world but they shall not be, ‘for they shall inherit the earth.’ The wolves devour the sheep, yet there are more sheep in the world than there are wolves, and the sheep, continue to multiply, and to feed in green pastures.” (Spurgeon)

Philippians 2:3 *Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.*
Matthew 6:2 *When you give to someone in need, don’t do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get.*
Phil. 2:5-7 *You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. 6 Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. 7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave*
1 Peter 1:3-4 *Now we live with great expectation, 4 and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.*
Eph.1:11-14 v.14 *The Spirit is God’s guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.*
Ro.8:17*And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.*