

Matthew (Sermon on the Mount)

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The Sermon on the Mount was Jesus' first public teaching exposition. Jesus is setting the stage for the rest of His earthly and eternal ministry. He lays out the foundational truths of His Kingdom. He is defining His personal character to be followed.

Matthew 5:1-6

1 *Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.*

2 *And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:*

3 *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

4 *“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

5 *“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*

6 *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

Redefining “Blessed”

- Blessed – (Greek; *makrios*) This word is often translated to “happy.” It could even be translated as a holy congratulations.

We mostly only understand it through the lens of Western values but remember Isaiah 55:8-9. Jesus’ thoughts and ways are better and so we need to redefine the word “blessed” through the lens of Scripture.

Other Scriptures that challenge our view of being blessed: Psalm 41:1; 94:12; 112:1; James 1:12; Matthew 11:6

- Poor in spirit – Recognition and revelation that you are spiritually bankrupt and destitute before God. Godly repentance leads us here.
- Theirs is the kingdom of heaven. – We don’t earn our seat at Jesus’ table; we are **invited** through faith.

- Those who mourn – Simply define natural and spiritual mourning:

- Natural mourning—related to death, abandonment, loss, grief, etc.
- Spiritual mourning—godly sorrow authored by the Holy Spirit.

This is not to mean to live our lives in despair and hopelessness, but a recognition and revelation that our heart breaks for the things that break Jesus’ heart.

- They shall be comforted. – Cf. **Romans 8:18-23**

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 or we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

- The meek – (Greek; *praus*) Gentle in spirit, therefore not disputing or resisting the things of God. A poor and mournful heart will work humility and will produce meekness in your life.
Humility before God is being poor in spirit; humility before others is meekness.
Cf. **Matthew 21:2-11**
2 saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." 4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 5 "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" 6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. 8 Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" 10 And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, "Who is this?" 11 And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."
- They shall inherit the earth – those who are meek can be trusted with God's creation.
- Hunger and thirst for righteousness – not relenting until satisfied with the Lord. **Jeremiah 33:16** says, *"The Lord is our righteousness."* It is hungering for God and God alone, as the sole source of your satisfaction. Not a spiritual experience, power, maturity, but for Christ.
- For they shall be satisfied – Cf. **2 Corinthians 5:21** *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Humility and hunger are the starting places in the Kingdom of God.

Humility (poverty in spirit, mourning, and meekness) is a divine revelation from God of who I am. Hunger is a divine revelation of who God is.

The beatitudes are what Jesus is like and what He likes.

Discipleship Homework:

The Beatitudes are filled with so much counter-cultural truth that each one could be its own mini-teaching series. Don't rush through each value of the Kingdom of God but meditate and wrestle with the culture Jesus is inviting us in to.

- Is our definition of blessedness similar with Jesus'?
- Consider each of the values taught on Sunday: poverty of spirit, mourning, meekness, and hunger and thirst for righteousness. Does our value system align with Jesus'? If not, continuing prayers of repentance. Ask Jesus to change your thoughts with His truth and for the Holy Spirit to lead you in His ways.