

Flipped: The Upside Down Kingdom (The Blessed Life!)

Andy Deane · 8/27/2023 · Matthew 5:1-12

The Sermon on the Mount reminds us who we are in Christ, not what we should do to be in Christ. Jesus teaches us a way of life that God calls his people to display as a means of showing the world the character of their Creator.

Matthew 5:1-12, 1 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them. He said: 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

It can be helpful to consider these eight beatitudes in three descriptive categories:

The blessed RECOGNIZE THEIR STATE

#1 the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- Everything starts with being aware of our spiritual emptiness, need for God, and our desperation for His help.
- No one has the resources to purchase God's blessing: (1) the price (holiness) is too high & (2) it's not for sale!

The blessed REPENT OF THEIR SIN

#2 those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

- God will surely comfort our emotional grief, but this is more likely comfort for our spiritual grief over our sins.
- We must learn to really become sorry for our sins and grateful for God's forgiveness.

The blessed RESEMBLE THEIR SAVIOR

#3 the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

- Being meek is having your strength under the control of God.
- Jesus chose to identify his personality as meek (Matt. 11:29), and the disciples were terrified that even the wind and waves obeyed His command (Mark 4:41).

#4 who hunger & thirst for righteousness, they will be filled.

- Once we recognize that we are empty, we can tell Jesus that we're hungry and thirsty.
- God gives us new holy desires, ambitions, tastes, & affections.

#5 the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

- We give mercy because we've received mercy! We are both recipients and dispensers.
- If you are mistreated you have two options: you can get mad or you can give mercy.

#6 the pure in heart, for they will see God.

- God purifies our heart, and we start to walk in that purity.
- A pure heart can see God more clearly because distractions and impurities that blur our vision are removed.

#7 the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

- When we make peace with those at war with us we show ourselves to really be God's children.
- I love the description of the peacemakers as those who: “build bridges with wood from an old, rugged cross.”

#8 those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- This new way of life is so counter cultural that it brings conflict.
- We must learn to speak the truth in love, and then quietly say to the Lord, “this really has nothing to do with me, this is all about you.”