

## Matthew 5:1-16 The Blessed Life

Now Matthew Chapter 5 is what has been commonly been called the Sermon on the Mount.

A) Because of the Location – a hillside over looking the sea of Galilee

B) The location is not really a mountain – more of just a Hill – but it was a Mountain of a sermon.

1) Some have called it – “The Kings manifesto of the Kingdom.”

C) The Greatest sermon ever preached – because it was given by the greatest preacher who ever lived.

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

A) Please don't miss the significance here: Seeing the Multitudes – COMPASSION - He called his disciples to come to him.

B) Seeing the need around Him – He chose to teach and Equip his closet followers. – More than the 12 (not chosen yet) - directed at believers

Now Matthew 7:28 tells us the crowds were astonished at his teaching.

A) So for those who were willing to climb the hill – and sit on the fringes – they were able to hear this sermon.

B) The sermon begins with the Beatitudes: -

1) Eight declarations that Jesus made describing the heartbeat of the Kingdom.

C) These eight declarations describe the attitude and outlook that Jesus wants to produce in all of those who follow Him

Each Beatitude begins with the word Blessed

A) The Beatitudes are a Case study in true Happiness.

B) The Latin word for “Blessed” is “Beatus” and it is where we get the title Beatitudes

1) Blessed = Happy – The Be -happy attitudes

Everyone is interested in the Pursuit of Happiness

A) Written into the Preamble of the declaration of Independence – Life liberty.....

B) Google - The Pursuit of Happiness – 47million hits show up

C) And our Culture tends to believe that Happiness is based on Happenings

1) Everything is coming together for me.

People often think: More money will buy them happiness

A) “Money can buy you a bed but it can't buy you a good night sleep”

“Money can buy you books but it cannot buy you brains.”

“Money can buy you a house but it can't buy you a home.”

“Money can buy you medicine, but it can't buy you health.”

Money can buy you amusement but it can't buy you happiness

B) To quote Sir Paul and the rest of the boys from Liverpool – “Money can't buy you love.”

Survey Gallop Poll

“Spiritually committed people are twice as likely to be happy than those who are not spiritually committed people.”

A) Basically saying: Happy People are Spiritual people – One step further

B) Happy people are Godly people – The Bible declares Happy are the people whose God is the Lord!

Key thing that Jesus is illustrating in this sermon is that Happiness is connected to Character.

A) The first sixteen verses of Matthew 5 describe and deal with character. Spiritual Character

B) The rest of the Sermon on the Mount deals with conduct that grows out of character.

C) Character always comes before conduct, because what we are determines what we do.

- 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 filled.
- 7 Blessed are the merciful,  
For they shall obtain mercy.
- 8 Blessed are the pure in heart,  
For they shall see God.
- 9 Blessed are the peacemakers,  
For they shall be called sons of God.
- 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for  
righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of  
heaven.

**The Blessed life flows from the character of the heart that Jesus is seeking to produce in his followers**

A)Each beatitude describes a blessing – and then gives the reason for the Blessings.

B)Notice also: that the first and last reasons are the same: **“for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”** (5:3, 10).

C)By opening and closing the list the same way, Jesus is telling us that all of these blessings, **from the first to the last, are of HIS kingdom.**

**But Notice Also that the first and last promise are both in the Present tense: Theirs IS .....**

A)The others are **future tense**: they shall be comforted – they **shall inherit** the earth

B)The first is about possessing – what is ours in Him

1)The latter is the byproduct of that.

C)Jesus is also implying something that is hinted at throughout the Gospels:

**D)God’s kingdom is already here, and it also hasn’t yet arrived.**

1)Now and Not Yet aspect of the Kingdom

**Begins with Blessed are the Poor in Spirit/ Engine**

A)Train analogy – Fuels the rest – it all starts here

**B)Sunday we called it the passcode: Unlocks the door into the Kingdom**

1)Unlocks the door to Kingdom resources

**What does it mean to be poor in Spirit?**

**IN NT Times it described a beggar**

A)Someone who was so bad off they couldn’t take care of themselves

B)They were so destitute that they did not possess the resources to food and clothe themselves

1)They were dependent on the Charity of others in order to Survive.

**C)It is a sense of **spiritual bankruptcy** and helplessness before God.**

1)Nothing I can do to change my spiritual condition as a sinner.

**D)"Poor in spirit" is the realization that you have no assets to commend yourself before God.**

1)No working Capital to bargain with God – Destitute – Sinner in need of a Savior

E)Realize my utter dependency upon God for everything- starting with Salvation

1)But not limited to Salvation

**I am dependent upon Jesus for my salvation**

A)And I am dependent upon Jesus to live the Christian life –

B)BE who God has called me to be!

**C)Thiers IS the kingdom of heaven –**

1)Opens the door to my need of a savior

D)Opens the door to Divine resources

**“Poverty of spirit empties a man and so makes him ready to be filled!”**

E)A person who doesn’t have that mentality after they have been saved – is one who is constantly trying to live the Christian life in their own strength.

These Beatitudes follow a chain – or like stepping stones – One leads to the other.

A)How does this lead into the next Beatitude?

**V.4 Blessed are those that Mourn for they will be comforted.**

**B) Happy are the sad?**

1) IS that what Jesus is saying? Not exactly.

**But He is teaching us that a natural by product or reaction to being poor in spirit is to mourn.**

A) Before salvation – When I come face to face with my sin – I realize my sin separates me from God – causes Mourning

B) After I am saved and walking with the Lord – I fail and my flesh gets the best of me.

1) I am bummed out – NOT AGAIN

C) MOURNING IS A PART OF Repentance

**D) Don't see that too much today: People mourning they got caught**

E) I see people trying to make light of their sin

1) Make excuses for their sin – blame others – Not take ownership for their sin

**True Repentance – takes ownership – there is a grieving in the Heart**

A) Blessed are those who mourn – why? They shall be comforted.

B) We are told in Psalm 51 a **Broken and Contrite heart God will not despise.** {Doesn't turn away from – He moves toward}

Psalm 30:5

**“...weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.”**

Psalm 147:3

**“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”**

C) So poor in spirit leads to mourning over my sin – comforted by His grace.

**And that naturally leads to the next Beatitude – Blessed are the meek – for they shall inherit the earth.**

A) People hear meekness – automatically think – Weakness – when in reality –

➤ **Meekness is power under control**

B) See the progression: Poor in spirit – Destitute – bankrupt

1) My abilities – my resources – my personality – my charisma – can't do anything to affect my status w/ God

C) I Need Jesus – I am drawn to mourning when I see the magnitude of my sin

**But I am comforted by God's grace and blessed by being brought into His family**

A) I realize – how much I need Him – to Live the Christian life and walk the walk

B) Everything that I have – everything that I am – is brought under his Power.

1) Meekness – Power under Control

**Think of a Wild Stallion – Broken in – Before – Wild rebellious Pure power –**

A) Man from Snowy River – love that movie – Wild horse – Brombie – Horse causes Havoc – Young Jim Craig Breaks her in

B) The horse becomes his friend – **Still powerful but under control of another**

**Peter is a great example of what that Process can look like in a person's life – He was a big burly Fisherman.**

A) Once pulled in by himself – a net full of 153 normal sized fish – all by himself - **Big man – Powerful man**

B) Self-confident man – **Outspoken man** - He loved Jesus

C) Peter is A guy I most identify with.

1) Peter loved Jesus – He tried really hard to show it

**Peter was always putting his foot in his mouth!**

A) Get behind me Satan

B) They will forsake you – NOT ME

1) Sword in the garden – not blowing smoke

C) DENY'S before ROOSTER crows – broken – mourning – undone – failed

D) Jesus restores – Peter filled –

1) Still Peter – bold – but now He is a man under the power of God.

## Paul – Great schooling – intellect

A) My confidence will not be in that?

## B) Mourning Killed Christians

1) Comforted – Debtor to Christ

C) Meekness: God used everything about Paul – His great intellect – Penned Romans – Galatians

1) Great – Theological books

D) Everything that Paul was – was under the Power of God – Meekness

## The Blessing of Meekness? They shall inherit the earth!

A) **Spiritual aspect to this:**

“The spirit of meekness is what enables its possessor to get so much enjoyment out of his earthly portion, be it small or large.” – Pink

B) One of the Characteristics of the meek person is Contentment – AT REST IN THE LORD!

C) Satisfied with the allotment – He has given them.

1) Their Life is free from the tyranny of "just a little more,"

“The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord.” – Isaiah 29:19 – Everyday Joy

A) They know who they are in Christ – They know He is for them – SATISFIED IN THAT -

B) The Picture of the Broken in Wild Stallion is a great **EXAMPLE of this.**

1) Restlessness is gone – the Anger is gone

C) My owner loves me and is going to take care of me

1) All that I am – all that I can be – **HARNESSED UNDER HIS LOVING CONTROL**

D) Those who are Meek are no longer living to prove anything to themselves or anyone else.

1) **Secure in their own Skin – their own place**

“The world has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to him. By God’s help, I aim to be that man.”

Inherited in the way of doors being opened –

E) That is the Present Spiritual side to this Promise – the meek shall inherit the earth!

1) They are ENJOYING LIFE NOW!!!!

## But there is also a Literal aspect as well.

A) **Co-heirs with Christ** – We are going to Share in His Inheritance.

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” ~ Romans 8:16,17

That leads to the next Beatitude: V.6 **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled!**

A) The more that I am experiencing life under the power and the direction of Jesus

B) The more of Jesus I want!

1) His Person – He is the King of righteousness

C) His Way: His way is right

## Hunger and thirsting after Him.

A) Hebrews 11:6 He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

B) Hey, you know what the difference is between spiritual immaturity and spiritual maturity?

1) One word, "appetite." What are you hungry for?

C) What are you passionate about? What do you crave? What drives you? That's the idea.

## Do you hunger and thirst for righteousness?

A) Notice it doesn't say blessed are those who casually snack after righteousness? Hunger = pursue

B) Some people snack on righteousness – because they are consuming too many other things.

1) Dessert before dinner – Mac D's not hungry for steak

Leads to the next: **7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.**

A) The Closer I get to Jesus – the more like Jesus I become: Jesus was Merciful.

B)After you have gone through the emptying process and you're filled with God's love,

1)You'll be merciful toward others—

C)Merciful – actively and outwardly compassionate toward others

1)Actively engaged in Kindness

**Merciful people are those who are prone to give others the benefit of the doubt.**

A)Know no man after the flesh. –

B)Focus on your flesh – I want to see you in Jesus no longer judgmental, critical,

1)Truly, the more righteous a man is, the more merciful he will be.

D)The more sinful a man is, the more harsh and critical he will be.

E)It is hard to be judgmental when you have been the recipient of such mercy!

**I have rarely regretted a time where I showed mercy to someone – gave benefit of the doubt.**

A)Even when I ended up being wrong

**B)I have regretted many times when I didn't show mercy – was extra hard on someone.**

C)When in doubt BE MERCIFUL –

1)ERR ON THE SIDE OF GRACE

**7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.**

A)So true – those who tend to be merciful – have that reputation for showing mercy.

B)They will obtain mercy – from others and from God!

C)People are quick to show mercy to you and so is God!

**8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.**

Søren Kierkegaard wrote a book called Purity of Heart Is to Will One Thing.

A)That is not a bad definition, provided that the one thing we will is the glory of God.

B)Let me try to show you where that definition comes from in Scripture. We start with the closest OT parallel to this beatitude, Psalm 24:3–4.

**Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?**

**And who shall stand in his holy place?**

**He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false, and does not swear deceitfully.**

**C)You can see what David means by a "pure heart" in the phrases that follow it.**

1)A pure heart is a heart that has nothing to do with falsehood.

D)It is painstakingly truthful and free from deceitfulness.

1)Deceit is what you do when you will two things, not one thing.

**It is sincere: not phony – not pretending!**

A)I know who I am apart from Christ – I know who I am in Christ

Purity – not trying to be something I am not.

B)Not pretending to be more spiritual than I am – I am so in need of more Jesus in my life – not afraid to show it

C)James touched on this same idea -James 4:8.

**Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you men of double mind.**

**Notice that just like Psalm 24 there is reference to both clean hands and a pure heart as preparation for drawing near to God, or "ascending the hill of the Lord."**

A)But notice how the men are described who need to purify their hearts: "men of double mind."

**B)That is they are men that will two things not just one thing.**

C)The impurity of double-mindedness is explained in James 4:4.

**Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**



D) So the double-minded man of v. 8 has his heart divided between the world and God, like a wife who has a husband and a boyfriend.

**Purity of heart on the other hand is to will one thing, namely, full and total allegiance to God.**

A) Lord I want you to have all of me!

B) Purity of heart is to will one thing, namely, to "seek the face of the Lord" (verse 6).

1) Purity of heart is to will one thing, namely, God's truth and God's value in everything we do.

C) The aim of the pure in heart is to align itself with the truth of God and magnify the worth of God.

**Promise they shall see God**

A) Access into His Presence

B) See God at work in their lives

**C) When we are consumed with God's person and Presence – we are also consumed with HIS Mission**

**9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.**

**In classical Greek culture a "peacemaker" was an ambassador sent to entreat for peace – they were honored and trusted diplomats.**

A) They knew how to put the needs of their King and country before their own opinions, cares and concerns!

B) The Title of **a peacemaker** was one of the most **RESPECTED TITLES** that could be given to you!

**C) TRUE IN THE CHURCH**

**"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of Peace" – Ephesians 4:3 (NIV)**

**"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification." – Romans 14:19 (NIV)**

C) When Jesus uses this term – Peacemaker – I think he has something in mind that is greater than diffusing arguments.

1) Or even matters between countries.

D) I think that Jesus is primarily talking about matters of eternal scope and significance

**Jesus is thinking in terms of the gospel! PEACE IS AT THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE!**

A) **JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE – PEACEMAKER**  
Made a way – Man to be at peace with God

B) We are now commissioned to be peace makers

1) Share the message of Peace

C) For they shall be called sons of God –

**Sons get connected to their dads – appearance and actions – Me and my Dad – older I get**

A) Jordan Freund and me

B) So appearance – and actions – talk like your dad

1) Stand like your dad

C) Heart of your dad

D) Idea: Peacemakers are referred to as sons of God because – you remind me of the heart of the father.

**However: Not everyone loves that heart!**

A) John – Darkness hates the light – exposes their evil deeds –

B) Peacemakers will be persecuted

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness'

sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

C) Persecuted for Righteousness – not weirdness  
**For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

A) Divine resources – Divine Strength to endure.

B) Corrie ten Boom – When do I give the train ticket

C) Persecution puts you into a Unique club.

**V.11 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

**Really – 2 Timothy 3:12 – All those who desire to live godly will suffer persecution.**

**A) Postmodern world – no absolutes – Tolerance is preached – except toward Christians**

**B) We are being marked – More and more the lines are being drawn – Have to choose.**

**C) That is the way it was in Jesus' day.**

### **Similitudes**

**A) This section: Similitudes – A similitude means likeness**

**B) A **Simile is an expression of Comparing** one thing to another**

**C) Jesus is going to tell us that in relationship to the world – the man or woman described in the Beatitudes is JUST LIKE two specific things – **SALT AND LIGHT****

**13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.**

**14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

**You are salt – You are light!**

**You are Salt! – Valuable commodity**

**A) Salt was used for Healing / preserving/ purifying/ flavor enhancing**

**B) You are to have that kind of an affect on the world around you.**

**C) In order for salt to have an affect it has to permeate the wound – the meat – infection**

**1) How can I do that?**

### **YOU ARE LIGHT**

**A) HIS LIGHT IN US**

**B) LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE**