

"Blessed By God - Part 1" Matthew 5:1-6

Can you imagine not needing, or even wanting, anything else in life? Can you imagine being fully and completely satisfied, perfectly content, and overflowing with joy? Jesus, in His first sermon recorded by Matthew, reveals just such a life - the life blessed by God. But you had better prepare yourself - it's probably not what you were expecting.

Setting in Matthew – baptism; temptation; begins ministry; 4:17-25

The disciples have just abandoned their nets to follow Him; They believe He is Messiah. Expecting kingdom. This is what ideal kingdom living is all about!

Not what they were expecting.

READ Mt 5:1-12

1. Poor in spirit – 5:3

Radical – characteristics are counter-intuitive; paradoxes

Blessing = rich not poor; rejoicing, not mourning, powerful, not meek

What does "blessing" mean?

Not happiness; not directly related to my subjective state of mind
Greek island of Cyprus called "*makarios*" – "self-contained"; people didn't need to leave the island

Blessed by God = self-contained; don't need anything else

Two words for poor in Greek

1. hand to mouth and those who had nothing (from verb "to cower or crouch")
2. on verge of starvation (used here)

Poor in spirit = those who have nothing else but God; humble, recognize need; Is. 57:15; Rev. 3:17-18

To acknowledge spiritual bankruptcy; this is the beginning of blessing

Eight characteristics

Not eight different people, but character of the person God blesses.
General; rest of sermon is specific. 4 this week; 4 next week.

Not the healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous.

Prostitutes, tax collectors, Samaritans attracted to Jesus and Jesus was attracted to them.

Is. 66:1-2

Luke 18:9-14

Reward – kingdom of heaven; this is where it begins

2. Those who mourn – 5:4

“To grieve with a grief which so takes possession of the whole being that it cannot be hid” RR, 12

Mourn over what? Mourn over what grieves the heart of God

Personal sin – Ps. 119:136

David Brainerd, missionary to American Indians; in his journal on 18 October 1740, “In my morning devotions my soul was exceedingly melted, and bitterly mourned over my exceeding sinfulness and vileness.”

Why don't I mourn? Uncomfortable; shallow view of sin; shallow view of joy; superficial Christian, happy, happy, joy, joy

Sin of the world – Ezek. 9:4; Daniel 9:3-9

World applauds sin; New Orleans; Las Vegas

Reward – Comfort

3. The meek – 5:5

Mourn – accurate view of self apart from grace of God

Meek – Not defending my ground; no reputation to defend

I don't mind saying to God, I'm a desperate sinner; but when another person comes up to me and says, “You're a desperate sinner,” I am offended

“The man who is truly meek is the one who is amazed that God and man can think of him as well as they do and treat him as well as they do.” Lloyd-Jones

Gentle response to others’ attacks; 1 Peter 2:21-23

Not passive; not weak; not supersensitive; restrained; no rights

Reward – inherit the earth; Ps. 37:11,22,34; 1 Cor 3:21-23

I can’t make myself meek; where will I get meekness?

4. Those hungering for righteousness – 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for happiness

Happiness is elusive in this world because we can’t control circumstances

Ex – painful disease; man wants relief of pain; doctor wants cure; pain is a symptom to be used to diagnose the problem; solution = righteousness

A. Positional/Status – justified

Sermon on Mount made listeners sense need for New Covenant.

B. Practical/Character

Desire to be right with God in all my thoughts and actions; permeates; free from power of sin; free from even the desire to sin; to be like God

Power of the Spirit

Thy will be done; remove appetite suppressants

What suppresses your appetite for God? Lust, hatred, covetousness, anxiety.

World’s buffet will quench our appetite for God

God’s response to such an appetite – Ps. 107:9; Is. 41:17,18

Luke 15:15-19 – Prodigal son ate husks; starving returned to the father

C. Universal

Not sure I want to inherit the earth. It’s broken. Rom. 8:19-25

D. Reward – satisfied; not disappointed

Application

Poor in spirit, mourning over sin, meek in response to others, hungering for righteousness

Can't be this person by "strapping it on"; need God's resources

Empty your hands

Remove the things that are suppressing your appetite for God