

## "Blessed By God - Part 2" Matthew 5:7-12

The Beatitudes represent Jesus Christ's most succinct explanation of the abundant life, the life blessed by God. Consistent with Jesus' revelation of truth, the Beatitudes contain several of life's great paradoxes - blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are those who mourn, blessed are the persecuted. It takes great faith to discover these great blessings!

What is happiness and how do we obtain it?

*(Psychology Today, survey of its readers)*

- Found very few factors that correlated with happiness
- No correlation between wealth (or poverty) and happiness
- No correlation between pleasure and happiness

Pursue pleasure but never find happiness.

But you can experience God's blessing.

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

Beatitudes at the beginning of Sermon on the Mount tell us how

### **Read Matthew 5:1-12**

Not 8 different people. The person whose life is blessed by God.

### **Flow of thought**

1-3 seeing ourselves as we truly are in God's eyes.

Poor in spirit, mourn, meek (inherit the earth; Daniel 7:18, 27)

4 - Resource. Hunger and thirst for righteousness

5-7 Results

8 - Persecuted. Live like this and the world will not praise you.

## 5. The merciful – Mt 5:7

Related OT ideas: grace, loyal love, compassion (most common; rahāmîm, womb)

“grace is associated with men in their sin, mercy with men in their misery... [mercy is a] sense of pity and a desire to relieve suffering” Lloyd-Jones

Feeling that moves you to action

The person is vulnerable. You don't take advantage of vulnerability. Don't ignore the vulnerability. Show grace, kindness.

Ex – Good Samaritan. Luke 10:33-35. Others might have felt something, but did not act

Gen. 43:26-30; Jonah 4:9-11

Sacrifice of God in giving us Jesus; Rom. 5:6-8.

Reward – receive mercy from God

No mercy toward others, no mercy toward me. No salvation?

Blessing. Judgment seat of Christ; Mt 7:2; James 2:12-13; 2 Cor. 5:10

Correlation between earthly and heavenly relationships

How do I become merciful? Train ourselves and our children to empathize

How would you feel if that happened to you?

How would you like to be treated?

## 6. The pure in heart – Mt 5:8

Pure = “clean”

A. Moral purity

Religious culture of Jesus' day. Not merely externally pure like the Pharisees; white-washed tombs; clean the outside of the cup; ravenous wolves

Sincere; without hypocrisy; same inside/out – David had great failures, but an active conscience. Ps. 24:3-5; 51:6,10; 1 Tim. 1:5

Listen to voice of Spirit convicting. Confess quickly

B. Undivided love

The quality of being "...single-minded, ...free from the tyranny of a divided self" —Tasker quoted by Stott, 49

Ps. 86:11,12

Divided heart = misery. Romans 7. Cannot serve God and money

C. Reward – see God. What does it mean to "see" the invisible God?

Pattern in Beatitudes: Condition/Reward

Sermon emphasizes reward. Go for it. Reach out for God's best

What does it mean to "see" the invisible God?

Ex – relay race and I am a slacker. Receive gold medal with teammates, but hard for me to enjoy.

Ex – group project and I am a slacker. Get "A." Hard for me to enjoy

Ex – If I had given my all, my capacity to enjoy the moment would be full

Capacity to enjoy God. God can, and has, revealed more of Himself to some people. Moses. Daniel. Simeon. Anna. Churches – Rev 3-4

Bucket filled or thimble filled?

**He is worthy of giving all.**