

# How Blessed Are You?

November 4, 2018 – Matthew 5:1-12

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**“Now when He (Jesus) saw the crowds, He went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to Him, (See also Luke 6:17-26) - μακαριοι - Blessed – Fortunate – Happy} and He began to teach them, saying: Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”**

Do you consider yourself Blessed, or just plain lucky? As you answer this question I would like you to first consider a few Bible passages in addition to this Sermon Text.

**Ephesians 1:4-7a - For God chose us in Christ Jesus before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons / children through Jesus Christ in accordance with His pleasure and will to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins,”**

**Jeremiah 1:5 – “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.”**

As God has declared in His Word, the Holy Bible, He knew you before the creation of the world. You are not here by accident, but according to God’s set purpose and will. (II Corinthians 5:5)

As we look at these Beatitudes, that is Blessings - μακαριοι - Blessed – Fortunate – Happy - It is very important to note that The SERMON on THE MOUNT is NOT a prescription for making oneself holy and righteous in the eyes of God and thus earning a place in the Kingdom of Heaven. Rather as Jesus instructs His disciples he describes in these Beatitudes the blessedness that ALREADY belongs to all believers in Christ. Jesus mentions 8 ways in which Christians are blessed.

**Poor in Spirit** = As believers, we recognize our sinfulness and need for a Savior.

**We Mourn** over a sinful heart that we possess from the moment we are conceived.

We mourn over the fact that sin has caused separation between God and mankind. We mourning over the grief that Satan brings into the world.

Yet we will find Comfort. Luke uses the Greek word - γελασσετε - to Laugh. We will be comforted for certain in heaven. As we are told in **Rev. 21:4 – The Lord will wipe every tear from our eyes. Vs. 5 – Believers are meek, for they will inherit the earth.**

Meek – Not filled with rage or envy. No obstinate arrogance / pride. As believers we quietly resign our will to God and His Will, not our own. Not seeking revenge but forgive, from the heart. Submissive.

The Believers looks forward to heaven, but we also rule with God even in this world, by God’s Word.

**“All things work together for the good of those who love God.” (Rom. 8:28)**

**Vs. 6 – Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, - δικαιοσυνησ - for they will be filled.**

As believers we long and hunger for the Righteousness of God. As believers, the Holy Spirit has led us to recognize the need for God to make us Holy, to make us righteous. In Christ, God regards us and treats us as human beings in harmony with His justice.

Jesus fulfilled the Law for us, by His holy life, and paid the ransom for our sins with His blood. Christ Jesus procured for us a righteousness acceptable to God. This righteousness is imputed to us through faith.

We are filled now with the peace of the forgiveness of sins, and forever in heaven when we shall see Him as He is, and be like HIM in everlasting righteousness and blessedness. (1 John 3:2; 1 Cor. 15:49)

**Vs. 7 – Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.**

Merciful = Those who show and demonstrate sympathetic love toward those who are in need of assistance in a temporal or spiritual way.

God has demonstrated sympathy for us in all physical and spiritual needs that we have.

God has transformed us, Metomorphocized us in His Justification. This leads us to be merciful to others.

**Vs. 8 – Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.**

Pure in Heart = Genuine Honest. Cheerful activity. As opposed to hypocrisy, lies and deceit.

This of course is contrary to our natural sinful heart. Out of the heart proceeds evil thoughts, murders adulteries etc. as Jesus states in Matt. 15:19.

We see God by Faith in His Word. We know from Creation and believe that God exists. We see God in His Word. Because of Christ Jesus we shall see God in heaven.

**Vs. 9 – Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.**

Why does it seem that some people just like to fight and cause problems for others and to stir up the pot and to cut other people down? That is our sinful nature, and even we as believers fall into that trap.

Those who make peace for themselves and for others are blessed. Jesus is the Great Peacemaker between God and Mankind. By His Life – Death and Resurrection. The angels sang to the Shepherds *Peace on Earth Good will to men On Whom His favor rests.*

**Vs. 10 – Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Do you enjoy persecution? Do you enjoy persecution because you are a believer in Jesus Christ? Hold firm. Do not wavier. Fear Not. For yours is the Kingdom of God.

**Vs. 11 – Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of ME.**

To be persecuted, insulted and falsely attacked because you are a Christian, is a blessing. It is all Because of JESUS.

Be aware of those gossips who twist the truth and put the worst construction on everything.

Instead be one who puts the best construction on everything. Speak well of others, not evil.

**Vs. 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.**

Abel was killed by his own brother Cain. (Genesis 4)

Daniel in the lion's Den – (Daniel Ch. 6)

Shadrach – Meshach & Abednego thrown into the fiery furnace. (Daniel Ch. 3)

Zechariah son of Berekiah murdered between the temple & Altar – (Matthew 23:35)

Jeremiah was thrown into a cistern. (Jeremiah 38:6-13)

Elijah had his life threatened by Queen Jezebel. (I Kings 19:2)

John the Baptist = Beheaded – Mark 6:25

Stephen Stoned – Acts 7

James the brother of John was put to death by Herod with the Sword. (Acts 12:2)

The Apostles were put into jail and flogged and then left go, and they REJOICED because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. (Acts 5:41)

Paul & Silas thrown into prison. (Acts 16)

The Apostle John was exiled on the Island of Patmos. (Rev. 1:9)

AND SO

**Vs. 12 – Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven,**

Can you list any more blessings that the Lord has given you?

The Greatest of course is Salvation in Christ Jesus our Risen and Living Savior. AMEN