

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

Blessed Are

Matthew 5:1-12

Previously:

- Brood of Vipers and Son of God
- Led Up by the Spirit
- John the Baptist in prison
- Calling Simon Peter & Andrew, James & John

Beatitudes - Supreme blessedness or happiness

Supreme - Greatest in power, authority, or rank; paramount or dominant.
Greatest in importance, degree, significance, character, or achievement.
Ultimate; final

Taco supreme, the clothing brand

What brings us supreme happiness?

Watching F1 is fun, but building Lego with my son was better

Seeing my kids happy, seeing them learn things

Seeing them know God

I keep harping on it - healthy, wealthy, wise, "best life now" - Jesus is going to show us what the supreme life now looks like. It may not be what we expect.

Attitude in life

Ash, NJ girl

Attitude - Describes the pitch of a plane

Where are our attitudes pointing us?

Are attitudes make or break us - professionally, personally

[Phi 2:12-16 NKJV] Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for [His] good pleasure. Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Kids doing the yard work

[Eph 2:6-10 NKJV] and raised [us] up together, and made [us] sit together in the heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in [His] kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; [it is] the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

[Pray]

5:1-2

Jesus had been healing people

he himself was “acquainted with grief, son of sorrow”

he understood and cared about their ailing

their long term, chronic illnesses

All the healings led up to this message - The sermon on the mount”

next 3 chapters all on the mountain Ch 5-7

When he saw the multitudes, he taught them

Teach, install doctrine in them

Surely the large crowd wouldn’t all follow him up there. And they didn’t.

Those who drew close were the disciples

More than the “12”

DGC ii. Luke says that this same basic material was, on a different occasion, spoken to a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases (Luke 6:17). Yet, in the beginning of the teaching, Luke writes: Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said (Luke 6:20). The sense of this is much the same as in Matthew; that this sermon was spoken to the disciples of Jesus, but disciples in a broad sense of those who had followed Him and heard Him; not in the narrow sense of only the Twelve.

Modern ideology would rebuke him for not speaking the largest platform possible

But Jesus knew they wouldn’t all listen, couldn’t all hear in their hearts

Weren’t there to draw near to God

[Jhn 2:23-25 NKJV] Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all [men], and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.

[Jas 4:8a NKJV] Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

We have a responsibility to draw near to God to hear - especially when he makes himself available.

Jesus sat down here. He went up, but he waited
Moses on the mountain

**God wants to speak with us, has something to teach us, has a word for us
But the only way for us to hear it - is to get away with him**

On our own, or with the group

- Church
- Bible Studies
- Retreats
- Radio in the car on the way home from work
- Morning/evening devotional
- Personal time

If we're not hearing from him, perhaps we haven't gone to where he is

*"I don't need church, the church is full of hypocrites"
Probably true! But when you go, it'll have one more!*

[Heb 10:24-25 NKJV] And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as [is] the manner of some, but exhorting [one another], and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Being a part of a church, being in fellowship with other believers is so important to hearing from God accurately.

Blessing of friends coming over the other night, friends in town for 10 days, another for 5 days

The primary way God speaks to us is through his Word - but he'll repeat it through a pastor, through a message on the radio, through the counsel of a good friend

He opened his mouth - the works of God begin with the Word of God -

creation, breath of life, promises, covenants, conversions ...

As we read the Beatitudes - and the rest of this sermon...let's not miss the person giving it. To see Jesus in it. To hear his heart. What God is saying to these people...and us.

:3

The poor in spirit

Not something we'd usually be happy or blessed about

What wearies you? What joys you?

To inherit the kingdom we aren't going to be joyed by the things of the world

Does it weary you going into Target? Can you even bring yourself to shop there?

Does it weary you learning about all the corruption and ills of the world?

Of the church?

If it does - then yours is the kingdom of heaven

If you're overjoyed by the things the world has - if your heart is full on the things of this life - then you probably don't have much inheritance in the next one

[Jas 4:4-5 NKJV] 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. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

:4

Mourning is a tough thing - loss of a loved one, deep regrets in life

People do not have comfort these days - they look for it - alcohol, relationships, flipping the script on their sin and saying it's something to be celebrated and accepted - all in an effort to do away with the weight of it

We are blessed when we bring our mourning to Jesus

The scripture comforts all

Joseph Gen 50:20

[Ecc 7:3-4 NKJV] Sorrow [is] better than laughter, For by a sad countenance the heart is made better. The heart of the wise [is] in the house of mourning, But the heart of fools [is] in the house of mirth.

[2Co 1:3-5 NKJV] Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.

:5

"Don't mistake my meekness for weakness"

Our world today says that "speaking truth to power" and claiming what's yours is the way to happiness, to get ahead. Not letting anyone get the better of you.

Yes, you might get ahead - and get a slice of earth for *now* - *but not for eternity*

Don't sacrifice your witness to get ahead
Getting it all in this life is not what true happiness is all about

"Pierced themselves through with many sorrows"

[Phi 4:5 NKJV] Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord [is] at hand.

:6

Seems all the more powerful knowing Jesus hungered and thirsted in pursuit of righteousness for 40 days

Knowing where true sustenance comes from

"Man cannot live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God"

Pharmacist saying medicine will make me drowsy, irritable and hungry - great, all three more than usual

The belly is never satisfied. But our spirits can be. Our cups can "run over" when we seek fulfillment in God.

That boredom watching TV, listlessness you feel - go spend a few minutes with God. Prayer, a worship song, read a chapter - you will find yourself being filled in a more profound way than the midnight snack

:7

Story of servant begging - then goes out and demands he be repaid

Mercy vs. grace

Sometimes we think we need to power it over others to keep ourselves in the place we want to be - but God says we should be merciful - doesn't mean we are accepting of others, especially when they're in blatant opposition to God - **but it means we don't own the keys to final judgment**

Judging vs. discerning

There's going to be a lot of people in heaven that we didn't agree with, maybe even had different ideas of what scripture was about - things they were wrong about, things we were wrong about. Things that we made too important, things that we didn't make important enough - but we'll be there because of our faith in Jesus and His blood alone.

I'm beginning to think Jesus isn't as a hard man as I think he is sometimes, and certainly not as much of a hard man as I am.

:8

I love that Jesus is giving these as the beginning of the most famous sermon
Like Solomon, giving out wise proverbs in a sense

If we really want to see God for who He really is - we must be purified

And that can only come through the blood of Jesus
 His forgiveness, his mercy, his grace

It's no wonder the world is so messed up - so twisted - even the church
 "Calling evil good and good evil"

We can't see God for who He is because we've rejected His word, His Son, His Blood

[Tit 1:15-16 NKJV] To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. They profess to know God, but in works they deny [Him], being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

It's no wonder the world is offended by everything righteous these days - you doing something pure is the most vile thing in their minds - and you saying whatever thing you said, in innocence, that got you in trouble with the thought police - is not your fault, it's their impurity on display

No, you're not a racist (or insert whatever term they might call you). They are. And they need Jesus just as much as we do.

:9

The pharisees were called a brood of vipers by JTB
 sons of their father the devil Jesus said
They were not peacemakers

But we are commanded to - we are not to be war hawks
 But that doesn't mean we're pacifists
 Sometimes force is necessary to defend life
Someone attacking me vs. my kids

[Rom 12:18-21 NKJV] If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but [rather] give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance [is] Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry,

feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

:10-12

Persecuted **for righteousness sake**

Many people are persecuted for their own sake - they're crass, rude, self-righteous, etc. And when they face rebuke, they wrongly, in pride, think it's because they're the victim
Being rebuked by an unbeliever a week before coming to faith

[1Pe 2:19-23 NKJV] For this [is] commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. For what credit [is it] if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this [is] commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed [Himself] to Him who judges righteously;

[1Pe 3:13-17 NKJV] And who [is] he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, [you are] blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled." But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always [be] ready to [give] a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. For [it is] better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

[Jhn 13:16-17 NKJV] "Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. "If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Jesus loves blessing his people - if we aren't experiencing his blessings, are we looking in the wrong places?

Is the thing we're finding to be a goad, a tough time, a lack of whatever - meant to point us to the way of his blessing? Or do we just fight against it, trying to overcome in our own strength?

OH! TO BE COUNTED AMONG THE PROPHETS!

[Heb 11:30, 36-40 NKJV] By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. ... Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain

with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented-- of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, [in] dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

This is where the life of faith leads us - to places the world would never want to go and could never go even if they wanted.

The ultimate blessing Jesus is trying to convey to us here - is a huge heavenly inheritance

Earthly life will be better, our spiritual life stronger

But which lasts longer? This life? Or eternity?

Videos about a million dollars or eternity with Jesus

Jesus wants us blessed. He is our ultimate blessing - everything flows out of that relationship with him.

But I picture him sitting down on this mountain, instructing the disciples, instructing us, that there is far more to life than we see - what we are looking for - on the other side of the boat, so-to-speak

That it's not about being happy. It's not about being full of good or fancy or non-gmo food, it's not about being popular, it's not about huge crowds, it's not about always getting your way.

It's about knowing Him and making Him known

It's about seeing all those would come to him come to him - and have a part in that

It's about helping each other make it to the finish line

It's about hearing those words "Well done my good and faithful servant, enter into your father's rest"

But He's got to be our Father first. He's got to be the one we follow. The one we know. The one we lay it all down for - not that he can take things away from us - but that we can put down the bad, even the good or even the better, in order to get the best.

And the best is Jesus and a life spent with Him.

[Phi 3:8-11 NKJV] Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which [is] from the law, but that which [is] through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His

resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.