



# ***“Blessed Are You!”***

## **MATTHEW Chapter 5:1-12**

In Matthew chapters five through seven we find what is commonly called the “*Sermon on the Mount*,” also known as the “*Beatitudes*.” Christ teaching is not political, nor of social reform, but His concern is for what men are, because what they are determines what they do. Jesus will describe Christian character that flows from within. Our goal is to embrace, enact, and exemplify this sermon in our daily living. It can be attained and maintained only by the working of the Holy Spirit within us. Admittedly we all fall short, but we should strive to be like Christ, practice makes perfect, Amen!

- **What is the true value of HEARING and DOING the *Sermon on the Mount*?**

Jesus said in Matthew 7:24-27 - *“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.*”

*“But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”*

- In Matthew 5:1-12 the word *blessed* is found nine times, in Greek it is *makarios*, which means *blessed* or *happy*.

King David said in Psalm 32:1 – *Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.*

> **Let’s discover the CONDITIONS and CHARACTER of true HAPPINESS and its REWARD:**

> **(v3) “Blessed are the poor in spirit”** – To be *poor in spirit* is to have a humble heart, which is the opposite of pride. Humility is the foundation for salvation and a lifestyle that brings happiness to all! Pride on the other hand has no part in Christ’s Kingdom, and until a person surrenders pride he cannot enter the Kingdom.

- Look at Matthew 18:1-5 - *At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.*

- Even nations are called to humble themselves, 2 Chronicles 7:14 - *if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

- **What does it mean to be humble?** It is a freedom from arrogance that grows out of the recognition that all we have and are comes from God. Jesus is the supreme example of humility (Matt 11:29; Mark 10:45; John 13:4-17; Phil 2:5-8).

**Biblical humility is not a belittling of oneself (Matt 6:16-18; Rom 12:3), but an exalting or praising of others, especially God and Christ, John the Baptist said in John 3:30-31 - *He must increase, but I must decrease.***

**Paul taught us in Philippians 2:3-4 - *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.***

**- INSIGHT: A humble person focuses more on GOD and OTHERS than on himself.**

**- INSIGHT: True humility does not produce pride but continuous GRATITUDE.**

**- Since God is both our Creator and Redeemer, our existence and righteousness depend on Him - Jesus said in John 15:5-6 - *"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."***

**Ephesians 2:8-10 - *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.***

**- What is our reward for being *poor in spirit*? It is to be blessed with *happiness* and *theirs is the kingdom of heaven!* All that heaven has to offer is ours today, tomorrow, and forever!**

**> (v4) *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted"* – Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 7:10 - *For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.***

**This mourning leads to repentance and conversion. But it does not stop there. It continues throughout the life of the conscientious Christian. The greatest saints realize most keenly how far they fall short of perfect Christlikeness, and they mourn over it.**

**Through our merciful Savior our sins are forgiven. In him the weary and heavy-laden soul shall find peace, Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-30 - *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*"**

**In addition, through conversion comes the indwelling of the *Holy Spirit*, also known as the *Comforter*. Jesus said in John 14:26-28, *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."***

**Finally, and eternally we will be comforted in heaven, whereas all our tears shall be wiped away, Revelation 21:4 - *And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.* Therefore, we are comforted forever! That's the gospel, "good news!"**

**Paul, the apostle shares his personal testimony of this concept in 1 Timothy 1:12-17 - *And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.***

*And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

> (v5) **“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”** – Meekness is an attitude of humility toward God and gentleness toward men, springing from a recognition that God is in control. Although weakness and meekness may look similar, they are not the same. Weakness is due to negative circumstances, such as lack of strength or lack of courage. But meekness is due to a person's conscious choice. It is strength and courage under control, coupled with kindness. Meekness is a virtue practiced and commended by our Lord Jesus (Matt 11:29).

Barnes writes, “Meekness produces peace. It is proof of true greatness of soul. It comes from a heart too great to be moved by little insults. It looks upon those who offer them with pity. He that is constantly ruffled; that suffers every little insult or injury to throw him off his guard and to raise a storm of passion within, is at the mercy of every mortal that chooses to disturb him. He is like “the troubled sea that cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.”

- Jesus said the meek “*shall inherit the earth,*” what does this mean? In Rev 5:9-10 it says “. . . and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.” We will reign with Christ on earth in His millennial (1000 years) kingdom (Rev. 20:1-10).

> (v6) **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”** - Daily we hunger and thirst, yet Christ says we are to hunger and thirst for *righteousness* just as we do for food. If we do this, we will be *blessed* (happy) and *filled* (satisfied).

The Psalmist writes in Psalm 42:1 - *As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God.*

And in Ps 63:1 - *O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.*

- **What is RIGHTEOUSNESS?** - It is holy and upright living, in accordance with God's standard. The word righteousness comes from a root word that means "straightness." It refers to a state that conforms to an authoritative standard. Righteousness is a moral concept. God's character is the definition and source of all righteousness (Gen 18:25; Deut 32:4; Rom 9:14). Therefore, man's righteousness is defined in terms of God's.

In the Old Testament the term righteousness is used to define man's relationship with God (Ps 50:6; Jer 9:24) and with other people (Jer 22:3). In the context of relationships, righteous action is action that promotes the peace and well-being of human beings in their relationships to one another.

For example, Adam and Eve would have acted righteously in their relationship with God if they had obeyed Him, because His commands defined that relationship. The Ten Commandments and related laws defined Israel's relationship with God. To obey those laws

was to act righteously, because such obedience maintained the covenant relationship between God and His people (*blessings and cursings*).

The sacrificial system in the Old Testament and the cross of Jesus in the New Testament show man's need for righteousness. Sin is disobedience to the terms that define man's relationship with God and with other people. Since the FALL in the Garden of Eden, man is inherently unrighteous. As the prophet Isaiah said, *"We are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away"* (Isa 64:6).

Man cannot be righteous in the sight of God on his own merits. Therefore, man must have God's righteousness imputed, or transferred, to him.

The cross of Jesus is a public demonstration of God's righteousness. God accounts or transfers the righteousness of Christ to those who trust in Him (Rom 4:3-22; Gal 3:6; Phil 3:9). We do not become righteous because of our inherent goodness; God sees us as righteous because of our identification by faith with His Son. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

The word *righteousness* is found 323 times in the Bible, let's look at a few:

- Christians believe unto righteousness - Rom 10:9-10 - *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

- Christians live unto righteousness - Rom 14:17-18 - *for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.*

- Christians awake unto righteousness - 1 Cor. 15:34 - *Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.*

- Christians can receive the blessings of righteousness - Matt 6:33-34 - *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

- Christians will suffer for righteousness - 1 Peter 3:14 - *But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed.*

- Christians practice righteousness - 1 John 2:29 - *If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.*

- Christians have the hope of righteousness - 2 Peter 3:13 - *Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

> (v7) "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy" - "Mercy" is a distinctive Bible word characterizing God as revealed to men. In the Old Testament it is oftenest the translation of *checedh*, "kindness," "loving-kindness."

*Mercy* is (a) an essential quality of God (Ex 34:6-7; Deut 4:31; Ps 62:12, etc.); it is His delight (Mic 7:18,20; Ps 52:8); He is "the Father of mercies" (2 Cor 1:3), "rich in mercy" (Eph 2:4), "full of pity, and merciful" (James 5:11); (b) it is associated with forgiveness (Ex 34:7; Num 14:18; 1 Tim 1:13,16); (c) with His forbearance.

Ps 145:8 - *"Yahweh is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great lovingkindness"*

Ps 85:10 - *"Mercy and truth are met together"*

Ps 145:9 - *"Yahweh is good to all; and his tender mercies are over all his works."*

Mercy is supremely in Christ and His salvation (Luke 1:50,54,58; Eph 2:4); (f) it is abundant, practically infinite (Ps 86:5,15; 119:64); (g) it is everlasting (1 Chron 16:34,41; Ezra 3:11; Ps 100:5; 136 repeatedly).

Mercy is used of man as well as of God and is required on man's part toward man and beast (Deut 25:4; Ps 37:21; 109:16; Prov 12:10; Dan 4:27; Mic 6:8; Luke 6:36 - *"Be ye merciful, even as your Father is merciful"*).

Jesus taught on MERCY in two parables, the *"Unmerciful Servant"* in Matt 18:21-35; secondly the *"Good Samaritan"* who showed mercy in Luke 10:30-37.

> (v8) *"Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God"* - The *heart* is the laboratory and origin of all that is good and evil in thoughts, words, and deeds according to Mark 7:21-23 - *"For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man unclean."*

It is the rendezvous of evil lusts and passions (Rom 1:24); a good or evil treasure (Luke 6:45); the place where God's natural law is written in us (Rom 2:15), as well as the law of grace (Isa 51:7; Jer 31:33); it is the seat of conscience (Heb 10:22; 1 John 3:19-21); the field for the seed of the divine word (Matt 13:19; Luke 8:15).

The heart is the dwelling place of Christ in us (Eph 3:17); of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 1:22); of God's peace (Col 3:15); the receptacle of the love of God (Rom 5:5); the closet of secret communion with God (Eph 5:19). It is the center of the entire man, the very heart of life's impulse.

How can sinners, like us, acquire a *"pure heart"* since we live in such a wicked and perverse world? - As Christians we must obey the command, on which both the Old Testament and New Testament revelation of love is based: *"Thou shalt love Yahweh thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."* (Deut. 6:5; Mt. 22:37).

- Let's renew our HEARTS God's way:

(1) With the removal of a "stony heart" (Ezek 11:19).

(2) Let's pray that our heart will become "clean;" as David prayed in Ps 51:10 - *Create in me a pure heart, O God.*

(3) We need a "steadfast" heart - Ps 112:7 - *He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.*

(4) Let's have a faithful heart - *"With the heart man believes"* (Rom 10:10);

(5) In our "heart" God's Spirit dwells with might (Eph 3:16);

(6) In our "heart" God's love is poured forth (Rom 5:5).

(7) Know that the Spirit of His Son has been *"sent forth into the heart"* (Gal 4:6);

(8) Know that the *"earnest of the Spirit"* has been given "in the heart" (2 Cor 1:22).

(9) In our "heart" the power of God is exercised for renewal (Jer 31:33 - *"I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."*)

In the work of grace, therefore, the heart can and will be changed daily.

> (v9) **“Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God”** - Adam Clarke writes, “As all men are represented to be in a state of hostility to God and each other, the Gospel is called the *Gospel of peace*, because it tends to reconcile men to God and to each other. Hence, our Lord here terms *peace-makers*, the *children of God*: for as he is the Father of peace, those who promote it are reputed his children.

- **Whose children are they who foment divisions in the church, the state, or among families?** Surely, they are not of that GOD, who is the Father of peace, and lover of concord; of that CHRIST, who is the sacrifice and mediator of it; of that SPIRIT, who is the nourisher and bond of peace; nor of that CHURCH of the Most High, which is the kingdom and family of peace.”

James 3:17-18 it says, “*But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*”

> (v10-12) **These verses deal with the topic of persecution and offers a double “blessed” plus “rewards!”** – John MacArthur who writes, “Our responsibility is not to seek out persecution, but to be willing to endure whatever trouble our faithfulness to Jesus Christ may bring, and to see it as a **confirmation of true salvation**. The way to avoid persecution is obvious and easy. To live like the world, or at least to “live and let live,” will cost us nothing. To mimic the world’s standards, or never to criticize them, will cost us nothing. To keep quiet about the gospel especially the truth that apart from its saving power men remain in their sins and are destined for hell, will cost us nothing. Those are the habits of sham Christians.

Jesus does not take faithlessness lightly, in Luke 9:26 - *For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels.*

If we are ashamed of Christ, He will be ashamed of us. Christ also warned in Luke 6:26 - *Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets. To be popular with everyone is either to have compromised the faith or not to have true faith at all.*”

- **Let's look at an example of persecution producing happiness?**

Jesus describes our **rewards** in Mark 10:29-31 - *"Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time -- houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions -- and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."*

Jesus encourages all Christians in Matthew 25:21-22 - *'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*