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## THE BLESSED LIFE

<sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup> and he began to teach them.

### The Beatitudes

He said:

<sup>3</sup> *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

<sup>4</sup> *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

<sup>5</sup> *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

<sup>6</sup> *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

<sup>7</sup> *Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.*

<sup>8</sup> *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

<sup>9</sup> *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

<sup>10</sup> *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

<sup>11</sup> *"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."*

### Matthew 5:1-12 NIV

- **"Blessed"** means approved by God.
- It means being in a state of God's favor and approval, even if one is suffering.
- Jesus presents a **radically different** value system from society.

The Beatitudes describe a life that seems upside-down to the world, yet it is right-side-up in God's eyes. They are a declaration of what life looks like under the reign of God.

***"The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3–12) are a description of the counter-cultural character of true Christians—not a checklist for salvation, but the portrait of those who belong to God's kingdom."*** John Stott

***"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."***

- To be "poor in spirit" is to recognize our spiritual bankruptcy before God.
- The world says, "Be self-sufficient." Jesus says, "Be God-dependent."

***"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."***

- This mourning is over sin—our own and the brokenness of the world. When our hearts break over what breaks God's heart, comfort follows.
- God does not ignore sorrow. He meets us in it.

***"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."***

- Meekness is not weakness. It is strength under control.
- The meek trust God for justice rather than grasping for power.

***"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."***

- Just as physical hunger drives us to seek food, spiritual hunger drives us to seek holiness.
- God promises satisfaction—not in temporary pleasures, but in lasting righteousness.

***"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."***

- Those who understand God's mercy become conduits of mercy. Forgiven people forgive people.
- Mercy triumphs over judgment. When we release others from their debts, we reflect the heart of our Father.

***"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."***

- Purity of heart means undivided devotion.
- The promise is breathtaking: they shall see God. Not merely with physical eyes, but in intimacy, clarity, and fellowship.

***"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God."***

- Peacemaking is not passive. It is active reconciliation. It means stepping into conflict to bring healing.
- God is the great Peacemaker, reconciling the world to Himself.

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

- The blessing is not the absence of suffering, but the presence of God's reign.
- Persecution is not a sign of God's absence—it is often evidence of a faithful witness and true doctrine.

### The Beatitudes describe Jesus Himself:

- He was poor in spirit.
- He mourned over sin.
- He was meek.
- He hungered for righteousness.
- He showed mercy.
- He was pure in heart.
- He made peace.
- He was persecuted.