

HIGHER GROUND

the Sermon on the Mount

Blessed in the Kingdom!

ABOUT MATTHEW'S ACCOUNT OF JESUS...

- Matthew aims to portray Jesus of Nazareth as the promised Messiah, the Anointed One Who Comes in fulfillment of Old Testament **PROPHECIES**.
- Matthew draws heavily on the **OLD TESTAMENT** and quotes from it often.
- Matthew reveals many **PARALLELS** between the life of Jesus and the history of the nation of Israel.

ABOUT THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT...

- The Sermon on the Mount is arguably Jesus' most famous teaching.
- The theme of the Sermon as a whole is generally agreed to be 'the **KINGDOM** of God.'
- The purpose is to contrast Two Ways people seek to gain **ENTRANCE** into God's kingdom.
- It has historically been interpreted in a variety of different ways.

ABOUT THE BEATITUDES...

- 'Beatitude' is taken from the Latin word for blessedness, or **HAPPINESS**.
- The beatitudes are pronouncements of blessing upon those happy people who are in the kingdom of God.
- The word 'blessed' is the Greek word *makarios*, which means 'fortunate; divinely favored, **HAPPY**, blessed, spiritually prosperous.' It describes a happiness that is not dependent upon favorable circumstances or happenings, but rather is dependent upon a person's relationship with God.

THE BEATITUDES

Matthew 5:1 *Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. ⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. ⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

BEATITUDE #1:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit"

Two possible words for poverty...

penes:

ptokos:

THE BLESSED: Those who are **TOTALLY DEPENDENT** UPON GOD

The Kingdom of this world:

- Blessed are the self-reliant
- Blessed are the self-sufficient
- Blessed are the independent, who don't need others
- Blessed are the highly-resourced and well-connected

THE BLESSING: "For theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

2 Corinthians 8:9 *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor [ptokos], so that you by his poverty might become rich.*

"Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to the cross I cling"

BIBLE READING PLAN

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday: Revelation 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday: Revelation 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday: Revelation 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday: Revelation 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday: Revelation 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday: Revelation 7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday: Revelation 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday: Revelation 8 |

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