

HIGHER GROUND

the Sermon on the Mount

Blessed in the Kingdom II

Matthew 5:4-7

The Beatitudes...

- Pronouncements of blessing
- Counter-cultural
- Effects of grace
- Evidences of salvation
- Progressive
- Reflections of the heart of Jesus

1. “Blessed are the Poor in Spirit”: **TOTALLY DEPENDENT UPON GOD**

The Kingdom of this World: “Blessed are the self-reliant and self-sufficient”

Definition: destitute; completely bankrupt; totally dependent

The Blessed: Those who are aware of their deep spiritual poverty and realize they are completely dependent upon God

Examples: The tax collector (*Luke 18:9*); Jesus (*II Corinthians 8:9*)

Evidences of Need: self-sufficient, comparing self with others, focused on their faults; prayerlessness; ungratefulness; entitlement

Repentance: *Apart from Christ, I have nothing and can do nothing (John 15:5)*

The Blessing: Entrance into God’s Kingdom

2. “Blessed are those who Mourn”: **BROKEN OVER SIN**

The Kingdom of this World: “Blessed are the tough, the hardened, the indifferent—those who don’t let things get to them”

Definition: severe grief, deep sorrow, bereavement over loss

The Blessed: Those who are sensitive to sin and broken over it

Examples: David (*Psalms 51*), Isaiah (*Isaiah 6*)

Evidences of Need: laugh at sin, deny sin, rationalize sin, excuse sin, wallow in guilt, try to reform

Repentance: *I see my sin and others’ sin from God’s point of view (Psalm 51)*

The Blessing: The Comfort of Forgiveness

3. “Blessed are the Meek”: **COMPLETELY SURRENDERED TO GOD**

The Kingdom of this World: “Blessed are the dominant, who assert their power; blessed are the stubbornly rebellious who make their own way.”

Definition: willing submission, yieldedness, gentleness; power under control

The Blessed: Those who submit and yield their ‘rights’ to God

Examples: Abraham, Joseph, David

Evidences of Need: floating anger and resentment; entitlement mentality, seeking retaliation, asserting rights, lack of teachability

Repentance: *I yield my ‘rights’ to God and to others (Romans 12:1-2)*

The Blessing: The Inheritance of the Earth

4. “Blessed are those who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness”:

THE SPIRITUALLY HUNGRY

The Kingdom of this World: “Blessed are those who thirst for excitement and thrills”

Definition: Obsessive, desperate desire for more of Jesus, His Word, and His Righteousness

The Blessed: Those who are hungry to be right with God, and who pursue God’s character in their lives

Examples: David (*Psalms 63*); Mary (*Luke 1*); Paul (*Philippians 3*)

Evidences of Need: casual, passionless Christianity, lack of desire for God’s Word, prayer, connection with believers, lack of attention to teaching; misguided spiritual ambition

Repentance: *I see my appetite for things other than Christ; I cultivate my spiritual appetite (Matthew 4:4; I Peter 2:2)*

The Blessing: Spiritual Satisfaction in Christ’s Perfect Righteousness

5. “Blessed are the Merciful”: **THE ACTIVELY COMPASSIONATE**

The Kingdom of this World: “Blessed are those who care just enough to get noticed; blessed are those who help those people who deserve to be helped”

Definition: a heart-level concern for others that begs for expression

The Blessed: Those who see needs and are moved to act

Examples: the Good Samaritan (*Luke 10*), Stephen (*Acts 7:60*)

Evidences of Need: unforgiveness, apathy, insensitivity to need; lack of empathy; holding a grudge; resentment

Repentance: *I see that I am undeserving of God’s mercy; I am grateful to have received it, and see myself as a conduit for His mercy to others*

The Blessing: Obtaining Even More Mercy from God! (and others)

BIBLE READING PLAN

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday: Revelation 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday: Revelation 12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monday: Revelation 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Friday: Revelation 13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday: Revelation 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday: Revelation 14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday: Revelation 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday: Revelation 15 |

Steve Benninger, Lead Pastor
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