

Bible Study Outline (Matt 5:4-5)

Radical

Questions:

Key Question: Are You a Radical for Christ?

- How do you become a radical for Christ?

James 1:22

²² But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Radical - rad-i-cal | \ 'ra-di-kəl

a: very different from the usual or traditional : EXTREME

b: favoring extreme changes in existing views, habits, conditions, or institutions

Remember: a radical is someone who is/was very different from the usual or traditional, even viewed as extreme; or, it is someone who favors extreme changes in existing views, habits, conditions, institutions, cultural norms, or attitudes

Jesus was the Greatest Counter-culture Radical in History!

Jesus was radical when it came to what He taught:

One of Jesus' Most Radical Collection of Teachings: Matt 5:1-10 (*Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount*)

- This section of Scripture is known as the, “Beatitudes.” Why would they be called by this name?

Answer: from Latin beatitudo, meaning "blessedness." Each phrase starts with, “Blessed are...”

Key: Just by the mere fact that you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, means that you have been called out of the world to be different from the world.

Question(s):

- Describe some ways that Christians are often undetectable, indistinguishable, or just no different from the rest of the world.

Quote:

“So the followers of Jesus are to be different from both the nominal church and the secular world, different from both the religious and the irreligious.” ~John Stott

Approaching the Beatitudes

- 1) The Sermon on the Mount, as a whole, (Matthew chapters 5,6, and 7) is the closest thing to a manifesto provided by Jesus. (define manifesto)
- 2) If we live according to the Beatitudes, we become the true, modern-day disrupters.
- 3) Jesus tells us that as His true followers, the citizens of God’s kingdom, we are to be entirely different from others.
- 4) The Beatitudes are foundational to the spiritual “happiness” of Jesus’ follower (RESEARCH “blessed” Greek Makarios)
- 5) Approach the Beatitudes not as ethical duties, but as **a series of emotional attitudes**. If we react to our environment in the spirit of them:
 - a. Our lives will be happy ones
 - b. We will have discovered the basic **formula for mental health**

1: “The poor in spirit...” (Matt 5:3)

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

Therefore, to be *poor in spirit* is:

- To ***acknowledge our spiritual poverty***, our spiritual bankruptcy before God
- To ***acknowledge that we are sinners*** under the holy wrath of God, underserving of nothing but judgment
- To ***acknowledge that we have nothing to plead with*** that we can use to buy the favor of heaven

Question: How is this radically different from the world’s thinking?

Blessing / Promise

“the kingdom of heaven...” – A CURRENT promise or blessing.

- At the beginning of His ministry Jesus proclaimed “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” Matt 4:17
- Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom.
- The Sermon on the Mount, and mention of the kingdom should be seen in this context. Repentance (metanoia, the complete change of mind)
- Righteousness belongs to the kingdom.
- The kingdom describes what human life and human community look like when we **fully submit** and live under the gracious rule of God.

2: “Those who mourn...” (Matt 5:4)

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

Question(s):

- Who are those who mourn?
- What do you think it means to mourn in this passage?
- So do we have to wait to lose a loved one in order to receive this blessing?

Read:

- Psalm 34:17-19
- Psalm 51:16-17
- 2 Corinthians 7:10

Question: What attitude is demonstrated in each of these passages?

Key:

- Jesus is not speaking about someone who mourns the loss of a loved one, but those who **mourn the loss** of their innocence, their righteousness, their self-respect **due to their sin or sinful nature**.
- The **sorrow of mourning** in this case is the **sorrow of repentance**.

*This is the second stage of the spiritual blessing contained in Jesus’ sermon. Note the progression.

- 1) Be spiritually poor and acknowledge your spiritual need, or bankruptcy before God
- 2) Grieve or mourn over your spiritual poverty

Communion / Lord’s Supper: Where is our heart when we take part in the communion ordinances?

Key: Those who truly grieve their own sinfulness will only be comforted by the relief from their distress—the reality and power of God’s forgiveness through the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior (**Read:** Isa 61:1)

3: “The meek (humble)...” (Matt 5:5)

*“Blessed are the humble,
for they will inherit the earth.”*

Langston Hughes wrote:

“Negroes--Sweet and docile, meek, humble, and kind: Beware the day—they change their mind.”

Question(s):

- Explain whether or not you think Langston Hughes is using the meek and humble in the same way Jesus was?
- How do people generally view or describe people who are meek?

Meekness – humility

A **true view of oneself**

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Expressed in an attitude and conduct with respect to others

=

An individual who is ***truly amazed*** that **God and others can think well of him** and treat him as well as they do.

Blessing/Promise

“for they will inherit the earth.”

- Describe people throughout history, who have tried to conquer vast expanses of the earth. (Would you have described them as meek?) –
- How did Israel take possession of the promised land, the land of its inheritance?

Read:

- Matt 19:28
- 2 Pet 3:13
- Rev 21:1

Key: On the day of regeneration, there will be a new heaven and new earth for the humble (meek) to inherit.

“Self-renunciation is the way to world domination.” ~ Rudolf Stier

The progression continues...

- 1) Be spiritually poor and acknowledge your spiritual need, or bankruptcy before God
- 2) Grieve or mourn over your spiritual poverty
- 3) Acquire and maintain a true view of yourself, and your sinful nature