

Sermon Notes: Blessed Are?

Key Scripture: Matthew 5:1-5

What would it take for you to feel like you have a blessed life?

Good gifts are blessings from God. (James 1:16-17)

But sometimes blessings can often come in the form of what we wouldn't normally identify as blessings. We have to remember that the Kingdom of God is an eternal Kingdom, and sometimes what's necessary for God's eternal glory and our eternal blessing is agang, be costly for us here on earth.

What does Beatitude mean?

Named from the initial words (beati sunt, "blessed are") of those sayings in the Latin <u>Vulgate Bible</u>, the Beatitudes describe the blessedness of those who have certain qualities or experiences peculiar to those belonging to the <u>Kingdom of Heaven</u>.

-Britannica

v3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

To be poor in spirit is to recognize your utter spiritual bankruptcy before God. It is understanding that you have absolutely nothing of worth to offer God..Why and how does being poor in spirit result in the kingdom of heaven? While the phrase can be broad in meaning, "kingdom of heaven" essentially refers to salvation.

When Jesus says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven," He is declaring that, before we can enter God's kingdom, we must recognize the utter worthlessness of our own spiritual currency and the inability of our own works to save us.

v4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

The blessing for those who mourn comes from the assurance we have that we will be comforted, and when we're comforted, we have a new ministry of comforting others with the same comfort we've been comforted with. (2 Cor. 1:3-4)

v5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Biblical meekness is not weakness but rather refers to exercising God's strength under His control – i.e. demonstrating power without undue harshness. [The English term "meek" often lacks this blend... of gentleness (reserve) and strength.]

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Application:

- Are you pour in Spirit? Have you given up on your own efforts to get right with God and received Jesus' free gift of salvation?
- Take some time this week to identify blessings in your life that you initially didn't see as a blessing.
- Recognize ministry opportunities you have because of the hardships you've been through.
- Read through the Beatitudes and recognize whether or not you see these blessings as blessings. Recognizing these as blessings is evidence of the Holy Spirit's work in your life.