

“Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit”

Matthew 5:3

Brent Green

Thesis: Christians must remember what makes them truly blessed so that they will demonstrate the actions God requires of them.

Intro:

1. “_____ are the people whose God is the LORD!” (Psa. 144:15; cf. Mt. 5:3-12).
2. “Blessed are the _____ in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of _____” (Mt. 5:3).

I. “Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit” (Mt. 5:3).

- A. Who are the poor in spirit? (2 Cor. 7:8-10; Mt. 6:33).
- B. “Blessed are the poor in spirit.”

II. “Theirs Is the Kingdom of Heaven” (Mt. 5:3).

- A. What is the kingdom of heaven?
 1. The “kingdom of heaven” is God’s spiritual kingdom.
 - a. This kingdom was spoken of in _____ (Dan. 7:13-14).
 - b. This kingdom is governed by God’s _____ (2 Pt. 1:3; James 1:25).
 - c. This kingdom is full of _____—God’s people (Phil. 3:20).
 - d. This kingdom is ruled by a _____—Jesus Christ the King of kings (1 Tim. 6:15).
 2. The exact phrase “kingdom of heaven” is used exclusively by _____.
(Mt. 13:24, 31, 33, 44, 45, 47; 18:3-4; 19:14; 20:1; 22:2; 25:1, 14; 16:18-19)
- B. Who receives this kingdom?
 1. The one who does the Father’s _____ shall enter the “kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 7:21).
 2. The one properly _____ shall enter the “kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 25:1, 11-12).
- C. How beautiful _____ must be (Rev. 22:1-5; 21:22-27)!

Conclusion:

1. “Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!” (Psa. 144:15).
2. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God” (Mt. 5:3).

“Blessed Are Those Who Mourn”

Matthew 5:4

Brent Green

Thesis: Christians must remember what makes them truly blessed so that they will demonstrate the actions God requires of them.

Intro:

1. “Happy are the people whose _____ is the LORD!” (Psa. 144:1-15, esp. 15).
2. The truly blessed _____ as God requires (Rom. 6:4; James 2:18; Mt. 5:3-12).
3. “Blessed are those who _____, for they shall be _____” (Mt. 5:4).

I. “Blessed Are Those Who Mourn.” (Mt. 5:4)

- A. What does it mean to mourn (Mk. 16:10; James 4:8-9; 1 Cor. 5:1-2; 2 Cor. 12:21)?
- B. What is being mourned?
 1. _____ is being mourned (James 4:8-9; cf. Ezek. 7:16; Mt. 9:12-13; 2 Cor. 7:6-12).
 2. _____ is being mourned (2 Cor. 1:4, 6-7; James 1:2-3; 1 Pt. 1:7).
 3. _____ is being mourned (Mt. 2:16-18, esp. 18; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).

II. “They Shall Be Comforted.” (Mt. 5:4)

- A. What does it mean to be comforted?
- B. What comfort is being received?
 1. The _____ gives comfort (Isa. 61:1-3; Lk. 4:18).
 2. The _____ give comfort (2 Cor. 7:6-13).
 3. The _____ of others gives comfort (1 Thess. 3:7).
 4. The _____ gives comfort (Acts 20:12; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).
 5. _____ gives comfort (Lk. 16:25; Mt. 11:28-30; Rev. 21:4).
 6. _____ gives comfort (2 Cor. 1:3-4).
- C. Those who mourn are comforted (2 Cor. 13:11)!

Conclusion:

1. “Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!” (Psa. 144:15).
2. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” (Mt. 5:4).

“Blessed Are the Meek”

Matthew 5:5

Brent Green

Thesis: Christians must remember what makes them truly blessed so that they will demonstrate the actions God requires of them.

Intro:

1. “Happy are the people whose God is the _____!” (Psa. 144:15).
2. “Blessed are the _____, for they shall inherit the _____” (Mt. 5:5).

I. “Blessed Are the Meek” (Mt. 5:5).

- A. What is meekness (Mt. 5:5; 11:29; 21:5; 1 Pt. 3:4; Jn. 18:23; Acts 16:37)?
- B. Who are the meek?
 1. The meek are those who _____ bear with man (Prov. 22:24-25; 15:1; 25:8, 15).
 2. The meek are those who _____ accept God’s teachings.
 3. The meek are those who believe vengeance belongs to _____ (Rom. 12:9).
 4. The meek are those who are at _____.
 5. “Blessed are the meek.”

II. “They Shall Inherit the Earth” (Mt. 5:5).

- A. What shall the meek inherit?
 1. They shall inherit _____ blessings (Gen. 15:7-8; Ex. 32:13; Deut. 1:38; 16:20; Judges 18:9-10; Psa. 37:3, 9-11, 22; Isa. 60:1-3, 19-22, esp. 21).
 2. They shall have their ultimate inheritance beyond this _____ (Mk. 10:30; 2 Pt. 3:13).
- B. Who receives this inheritance?
 1. Heirs receive an _____ (Rom. 8:17; Gal. 3:29; 4:7).
 2. The meek are _____ to God’s inheritance (Tit. 3:7; James 2:5; 1 Pt. 3:7).
 3. “They shall inherit the earth.”

Conclusion:

1. “Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!” (Psa. 144:15).
2. “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth” (Mt. 5:5).

“Blessed Are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness”

Matthew 5:6

Brent Green

Thesis: Christians must remember what makes them truly blessed so that they will demonstrate the actions God requires of them.

Intro:

1. Have you ever been hungry or thirsty?
2. “Blessed are those who _____ and _____ for righteousness” (Mt. 5:6).

I. “Blessed Are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness” (Mt. 5:6).

A. What does it mean to “hunger and thirst”?

(Mt. 4:2; 1 Cor. 4:11; Jn. 19:28; Psa. 42:1-2; 63:1)

B. What is “righteousness” (1 Jn. 2:29; 3:7; 3:10)?

C. Who are “those who hunger and thirst for righteousness”?

1. They _____ to be right with God.
2. They are those who find spiritual sustenance in _____ (Jn. 4:13-14; 6:35).
3. They are those who come to Jesus (Jn. 7:37).
4. They are those who act _____ (Rom. 12:20-21; Mt. 25:34-45).
5. They are those who will drink of the _____ of life (Rev. 22:12-17, esp. 17).

II. “They Shall Be Filled” (Mt. 5:6).

A. What does it mean to “be filled” (Mt. 14:20-21; 15:33, 37; 6:33; Lk. 6:38)?

B. Who shall be filled?

1. Those who find _____ sustenance in Jesus shall be filled (Jn. 4:13-14; 6:35).
2. Those who _____ in Jesus shall be filled (Jn. 7:37).
3. Those who are _____ on the right hand shall be filled (Mt. 25:34).
4. Those who are _____ shall be filled (Rev. 22:12).

Conclusion:

1. “Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!” (Psa. 144:15).
2. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness” (Mt. 5:6).

“Blessed Are the Merciful”

Matthew 5:7

Brent Green

Thesis: Christians must remember what makes them truly blessed so that they will demonstrate the actions God requires of them.

Intro:

1. Have you ever begged for mercy?
2. “Blessed are the _____ for they shall obtain _____” (Mt. 5:7).

I. “Blessed Are the Merciful” (Mt. 5:7).

A. What does it mean to be merciful?

(1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2; Tit. 1:4; 2 Jn. 3; Jude 2; Lk. 1:58; Heb. 2:17)

B. Who are the merciful?

1. The merciful are *not* _____ (Mt. 9:13; 12:7; Mt. 23:23).
2. The merciful are *not* the _____ (Mt. 18:24-35).
3. The merciful demonstrate the virtue of _____ (James 3:17; 2:13; Lk. 10:37).

II. “They Shall Obtain Mercy” (Mt. 5:7).

A. What shall the merciful obtain? (1 Pt. 1:3; Eph. 2:4-10).

B. Who shall obtain mercy?

1. People have been shown _____ by God (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pt. 3:9; Lk. 1:50).
2. _____ sinners shall obtain mercy from God (Tit. 3:3-7).
3. _____ shall obtain mercy from God (Heb. 4:16).

Conclusion:

1. “Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!” (Psa. 144:15).
2. “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy” (Mt. 5:7; Jude 21).

“Blessed Are the Pure in Heart”

Matthew 5:8

Brent Green

Thesis: Christians must remember what makes them truly blessed so that they will demonstrate the actions God requires of them and be pure in heart.

Intro:

1. The world can be _____.
2. God’s people are to be _____ (James 1:21; Heb. 12:1).
3. “Blessed are the _____ in heart, for they shall _____ God” (Mt. 5:8).

I. “Blessed Are the Pure in Heart” (Mt. 5:8).

A. What does it mean to be pure in heart?

B. Who are the pure in heart?

1. Those who are pure in heart are pure _____.
(1 Sam. 16:7; Acts 15:9; 1 Pt. 1:22; Psa. 51:10-11; Mt. 15:16-20; 5:28)
2. Those who are pure in heart are pure _____.
(Mt. 23:25, 28; 2 Tim. 2:22; James 1:27)

II. “They Shall See God” (Mt. 5:8).

A. What does it mean to see God? (Ex. 33:18-23; 33:7-11; 34:29, 35).

B. “They shall see God.”

1. They shall see the _____ through Jesus (Jn. 14:9-14).
2. They shall enjoy the _____ of God (Jn. 3:3, 5; 1 Jn. 3:2).
3. They shall see His _____ in heaven (Rev. 22:4; Prov. 22:29; Jn. 15:14).
4. They who see God shall be _____.
(Gen. 16:13; 32:30; Ex. 24:9-10; Ex. 33-34; Isa. 6:5; Mt. 7:14).

Conclusion:

1. “Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!” (Psa. 144:15).
2. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Mt. 5:8).

Beatitudes:
“Blessed Are the Peacemakers”

Matthew 5:9

Brent Green

Thesis: Christians must remember what makes them truly blessed so that they will demonstrate the actions God requires of them and be peacemakers.

Intro:

1. Have you ever longed for peace?
 - a. Maybe you wished your teenager could be at peace with you.
 - b. Maybe you wished your coworkers could be at peace with each other.
 - c. Maybe you wished that you and your spouse could be at peace.
2. Peace can be difficult but *not* impossible.
 - a. It is possible to be a peacemaker.
 - b. It is possible to seek and find peace.
 - c. It is possible to be at peace with God.
3. “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God” (**Mt. 5:9**).

I. “Blessed Are the Peacemakers” (Mt. 5:9).

- A. What does it mean to be a peacemaker?
 1. Consider the definition of *peacemakers*.
 - a. This term comes from εἰρηνοποιός (*eirenopoios*) (Strong).
 - It is only used one time in the KJV.
 - It means to be a “peacemaker.”
 - b. These are the “founders and promoters of peace” (Vincent).
 - These are *not* as Wycliffe termed “peaceable men.”
 - Tyndale renders these “maintainers of peace.”
 2. Consider a few comments about *peacemakers*.
 - a. God’s kingdom “is a peaceful kingdom; its citizens are peacemakers” (Boles).
 - b. “If the peacemakers are blessed, woe to the peace-breakers” (Henry).
 - c. Peacemakers “strive to prevent contention, and strife, and war” (Barnes).
 - “The beginning of strife is like releasing water; therefore, stop contention before a quarrel starts” (**Prov. 17:14**).
 - “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”
- B. Who are the peacemakers?
 1. They are those who live as subjects of the “Prince of Peace” (**Isa. 9:6**).
 - a. They imitate the spirit of Jesus “for He Himself is our peace” (**Eph. 2:14**).
 - b. They share in His peaceable disposition.
 2. They are those who are at peace.
 - a. They are at peace with God.
 - Jesus “came and preached peace” (**Eph. 2:15-16**).
 - “Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God” (**Rom. 5:1**).
 - b. They are at peace with their brethren (as the salt of the earth) (**Mk. 9:50**).
 - c. They are at peace with their fellow man (**Heb. 12:14**).
 - d. They are at peace, “having a good conscience” (**1 Pt. 3:16**).

3. They are those who seek peace (**Psa. 34:14; Rom. 14:19; James 3:18**).
 - a. They seek peace by preaching and teaching the gospel (**Eph. 6:15; Rom. 10:15**).
 - b. They seek peace by avoiding foolish disputes (**2 Tim. 2:22-26**).
 - c. They seek peace by helping to restore brethren (**Gal. 6:1**).
4. They are those who are opposed to strife and conflict.
 - a. They hate the sowing of discord among brethren (**Prov. 6:19**).
 - b. They seek unity rather than strife (**1 Cor. 1:10**).
5. “Blessed are the peacemakers” (**Mt. 5:9; cf. Prov. 12:20**).

II. “They Shall Be Called Sons of God” (**Mt. 5:9**).

A. Who shall be called “sons of God”?

1. Consider the language.
 - a. “For” gives the reason for being happy.
 - It indicates *why* and could be translated “because.”
 - Christians should be happy *that* they are called the children of God.
 - b. “They” indicates that this is reserved for the “peacemakers.”
 - c. “Shall be called” is to be named aloud.
 - d. “Sons of God” indicates kinship and ownership (**1 Jn. 3:1**).
2. Consider God’s spiritual kingdom.
 - a. God is the God of peace (**1 Cor. 14:33; Heb. 13:20; 1 Thess. 5:23; Col. 3:15**).
 - b. The gospel is the gospel of peace (**Eph. 6:15**).
 - c. The kingdom of God is a kingdom of peace (**Rom. 14:17**).
 - d. All the subjects of God’s kingdom are therefore peacemakers.
 - e. Thus, peacemakers are rightly called “sons of God.”
3. They are “those who resemble God” (Barnes).

B. Who are the sons of God?

1. The sons of God are made known.
 - a. Those who practice righteousness are the children of God (**1 Jn. 3:7, 10**).
 - b. The children of God love Him and keep His commandments (**Jn. 14:15**).
2. The sons of God have obeyed God’s plan of salvation.
 - a. They have heard the word of truth, the gospel of salvation (**Eph. 1:13**).
 - b. They have believed in Jesus Christ (**Jn. 8:24**).
 - c. They have been filled with godly sorrow and have repented (**2 Cor. 7:10**).
 - d. They have confessed the name of Christ (**Rom. 10:10**).
 - e. They have been baptized for the forgiveness of their sins (**Acts 22:16**).
3. The sons of God continue to obey God’s will (**Heb. 11:13, 39**).

Conclusion:

1. “Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!” (**Psa. 144:15**).
2. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (**Mt. 5:9**).
3. Offer invitation.

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Beatitudes:
“Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted”
Matthew 5:10-12

Brent Green

Thesis: Christians must remember what makes them truly blessed so that they will demonstrate the actions God requires of them.

Intro:

1. “Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!” (**Psa. 144:15**).
2. God’s people are blessed for many reasons.
 - a. They are blessed because they are His people.
 - b. They are blessed because of His blessings.
 - c. They are blessed because they are part of His family.
3. The Beatitudes speak of God’s blessed people (**Mt. 5:3-12**).
 - a. Jesus speaks of the actions His people must take.
 - b. Jesus speaks of the reactions they must face.
 - c. Jesus speaks of the blessings they will receive.
4. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (**Mt. 5:10-12**).

I. Reproach Is a Reality.

- A. Persecution is a reality for God’s people.
 1. They are “those who are persecuted” (**Mt. 5:10**).
 - a. The Greek word used is *διώκω* (*dioko*) (Strong).
 - b. To persecute is to harass, trouble, or molest (Thayer).
 - c. To be persecuted is to be maltreated on account of something (Thayer).
 2. They will be reviled and persecuted (**Mt. 5:11**).
 - a. The Greek word used is *όνειδίζω* (*oneidizo*) (Strong).
 - b. To revile is to defame, rail at, chide, or taunt (Strong).
 3. They will be spoken against falsely with evil (**Mt. 5:11**).
 - a. The Greek word for *evil* is *πονηρός* (*poneros*) (Strong).
 - The evil here is a reproach.
 - All kinds of reproachful things are said about God’s people.
 - b. The Greek word for *falsely* is *ψεύδομαι* (*pseudomai*) (Strong).
 - Here *falsely* refers to deceiving by falsehood.
 - Lies are told about God’s people in order to deceive others about them.
- B. God’s people will suffer persecution.
 1. Persecution is promised to the godly (**2 Tim. 3:12**).
 - a. *Persecution* here is the Greek word *διώκω* (*dioko*) (Strong).
 - b. This the same word Jesus used (**Mt. 5:10**).
 2. God’s people will face a fiery trial (**1 Pt. 4:12-16**).
 - a. The fiery trial is *not* a strange thing (**4:12**).
 - b. Christians will partake in Christ’s sufferings (**4:13**).

- c. They will be reproached for Christ's sake (**4:14**).
 - The Greek word for *reproached* is *ὀνειδίζω* (*oneidizo*) (Strong).
 - This is the same as *reviled* (**Mt. 5:11**).
- d. Suffer as a Christian *not* as an evildoer (**4:15-16**).

II. Remember the Prophets' Persecution.

- A. "They persecuted the prophets who were before you" (**Mt. 5:12**).
 - 1. Again, the Greek word employed is *διώκω* (*dioko*) (Strong).
 - a. The prophets were harassed, troubled, and molested.
 - b. The prophets were maltreated on account of their faith.
 - c. The prophets were defamed, chided, and taunted.
 - d. The prophets were spoken evil against falsely.
 - 2. Persecution of God's people is nothing new.
 - a. Jezebel killed the prophets of the Lord (**1 Kings 18:13**).
 - b. Obadiah hid one hundred (100) prophets from Jezebel (**1 Kings 18:13**).
 - c. Elijah's life was sought by Jezebel (**1 Kings 19:3**).
 - d. Zechariah, son of Jehoiada, was stoned (**2 Chron. 24:21**).
 - e. Isaiah by tradition was killed by Manasseh.
 - f. Jeremiah was scourged (**Jer. 20:2**).
- B. Christians today must remember the prophets' persecution.
 - 1. All of the prophets were persecuted.
 - a. Jesus spoke of the prophets (**Lk. 11:47-51**).
 - b. Stephen said they all had been persecuted (**Acts 7:52**).
 - 2. Do *not* forget what the prophets endured (**Heb. 11:32-40**).
 - a. They suffered horrendously.
 - b. All of God's people will be perfected together (**11:40**).
 - c. Christians must *not* forget the sacrifices made.

III. Righteousness Is the Reason.

- A. Why do God's people suffer persecution?
 - 1. They suffer for "righteousness' sake" (**Mt. 5:10**).
 - a. The Greek word is *δικαιοσύνη* (*dikaio syne*) (Thayer).
 - It refers to virtue, purity of life, uprightness.
 - It is correctness in thinking, feeling, and acting.
 - It is the state of being righteous.
 - b. Christians suffer persecution because of their faith.
 - 2. They suffer for Jesus' sake (**Mt. 5:11**).
 - a. The word *sake* in the Greek is *ἕνεκα* (*heneka*) (Strong).
 - b. It means "on account of" or "by reason of" (Thayer).
 - c. Thus, Christians suffer on account of Christ—they partake in Christ's sufferings.
- B. Righteousness is the reason.
 - 1. Righteousness is the reason.
 - a. "You will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved" (**Mt. 10:22**).
 - b. Those who lose their lives for Christ's sake will find it (**Mt. 10:39**).
 - c. Christians have been granted the opportunity to suffer for Christ (**Phil. 1:29**).

2. Righteousness is the reason for persecution.
 - a. Paul lived righteously in the face of persecution (**Phil. 3:8-11; 2 Cor. 11:22-28**).
 - b. Again, the godly will suffer persecution (**2 Tim. 3:12**).
3. Righteousness is the reason for life (**Ecc. 12:13-14**).
 - a. God made man to seek Him (**Acts 17:27**).
 - b. God created man to walk in good works (**Eph. 2:10**).

IV. React by Rejoicing.

- A. “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad” (**Mt. 5:12**).
 1. The word *rejoice* is in Greek χαίρω (*chairō*) (Strong).
 - a. It means to be full of cheer.
 - b. It indicates an overflow of rejoicing.
 2. The word *glad* is in Greek ἀγαλλιάω (*agalliao*) (Strong).
 - a. It means “to jump for joy.”
 - b. It is to exult and rejoice exceedingly (Thayer).
- B. Rejoice for Christ’s sake.
 1. The apostles rejoiced in their sufferings (**Acts 5:41**).
 - a. They were imprisoned (**5:18**).
 - b. They were reproached (**5:28**).
 - c. They were beaten (**5:40**).
 - d. However, after all of this, they rejoiced (**5:41**).
 2. “Take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake” (**2 Cor. 12:10**).
 3. Count it all joy when trials come (**James 1:2-3**).
 4. React to persecution by jumping for joy.

V. Rewards Await the Righteous.

- A. Why can God’s people rejoice over persecution (**Mt. 5:10-12**)?
 1. “Blessed are those . . . for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (**5:10**).
 - a. *Blessed* is μακάριος (*makarios*) in Greek (Strong).
 - b. It means supremely blessed or well off.
 - c. As in all the Beatitudes, God’s people are very blest.
 - d. Here the blessing is the ultimate reward of heaven.
 2. “Blessed are you . . . for great is your reward in heaven” (**5:11-12**).
 - a. Persecution should bring a person closer to God.
 - b. The closer one is to God, the greater one is blessed.
 - c. The faithful can look forward to a home with God.
- B. Heaven will surely be worth it all!
 1. The righteous become heirs with Christ (**Rom. 8:17**).
 - a. “If we endure, we shall also reign with Him” (**2 Tim. 2:12**).
 - b. Be faithful to receive the crown of life (**Rev. 2:10**).
 - c. The one who endures will receive the crown of life (**James 1:12**).
 2. Keep the faith to receive the reward (**2 Tim. 4:6-8**).

Conclusion:

1. “Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!” (**Psa. 144:15**).
2. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (**Mt. 5:10-12**).
3. Offer invitation.

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