



The BEATITUDES

8-part Bible Study

Sundays 10:30am Aug-Sept 2024

Part 1. Blessed are the **POOR IN SPIRIT**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Just the Opposite

List what you have observed about the confusion over what constitutes a blessed life.

True Blessings often overlooked or despised	False Blessings often desired or coveted
➤	➤
➤	➤
➤	➤

Blessed Are...

Differentiate between “happy” and “blessed.”

Read and look at the context of Matthew 5:1-12 to **identify** Jesus’ target audience.

Explain why the target audience is so important to keep in mind. Compare this intended audience with another similar one (Lk 6:17-23).

Share some ways these verses (Mt 5:1-12) can be misapplied.

BEATITUDES

The title for these sayings, “Beatitudes,” comes from the Latin noun “Blessings” based on the Latin word used to translate the Greek word μακάριοι “blessed.”



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Poor in Spirit

Look at the following and **define** “poor in spirit.”

- Ps 51:17
- Isaiah 57:15, 61:1, 66:2
- Luke 18:9-14

False Teaching

A teaching developed in church that you could become holier if you took a vow of poverty. Give several reasons why we can say this teaching is false.

Explain: “All people are poor before God. Many, however, refuse to acknowledge it.”

Identify some ways we might be tempted to sinfully refuse to be poor in spirit before God.

Kingdom of Heaven

Read Mt 8:5-12 to find the outcome for a man who was rich (Lk 7:5), but still “poor in spirit.”

Describe what is meant by “the kingdom of heaven” based on this account.

On his deathbed in 1546 Martin Luther had a piece of paper in his pocket with a note he had written, “WE ARE ALL BEGGARS. THIS IS TRUE.”

Explain how that note ties in with his emphasis on salvation through grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone, and Christ alone?

What About the Poor?

In Luke 6:20,24 Jesus contrasts those who are presently materially rich with those who are materially poor. Explain why disciples of Jesus also need this type of encouragement. (See 1 Cor 1:26-29).

Christ For Us

Elaborate on how the Christ lived perfectly on our behalf as a man who lived poor in spirit.

Blessed Are You

We fall short of being what God requires. Yet we have the promise that in Christ we are blessed.

Explain how this promise of blessing:

- 1) Gives us courage to confess our sins.
- 2) Redefines the way a sinner is blessed.
- 3) Points Christians away from self to look towards Christ.
- 4) Gives us a part of the picture of what it means to live as a disciple of Christ.



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Part 2. Blessed are **THOSE WHO MOURN**, for they will be comforted.

In the House of Mourning

Share the last time you experienced a funeral. Describe how it made you feel and what emotions and thoughts were in the forefront of your mind.

Read Ecclesiastes 7:2-4. Explain why Solomon considers it so beneficial to attend funerals.

Many Types of Mourning; One Source

Identify several different reasons followers of Christ might weep and mourn.

- Gen 23:1-2
- Psalm 38, Mt 26:75, James 4:8-10
- 2 Cor 2:1-4
- Acts 20:36-38
- Phil 3:18

Review what Scripture says is the ultimate cause of all our grief.

Empty Solutions for Pain

Look again at the various reasons for mourning. **Share** some ways that we are tempted to dismiss or ignore each type of grief.

Share some sinful ways people might try to alleviate grief with a false remedy.

NOT THE MARK OF WEAKNESS

“There is a sacredness in tears. They are not a mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are the messengers of overwhelming grief, of deep contrition and of unspeakable love.” ~Washington Irving, ‘Father of American Literature’ (1783–1859)



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They Will Be Comforted

Use 1 Thes 4:13-18 to **summarize** God’s solution for our mourning.

Explain why grief must be a part of the life of every disciple of Christ and **isolate** exactly what makes it different from the grief found in the rest of the world.

List some different ways you can respond when you see fellow Christians grieving.

Read John 16:20-22 & Rev 21:4 to **pinpoint** when Jesus intends to fulfill this promised blessing.

Evaluation Exercise

Evaluate and **rate** the way your church views crying in public. Is it a healthy acceptance or an unhealthy stigma?

1 Bad / Stigma	2 →	3 →	4 →	5 Accepted	6 →	7 →	8 →	9 →	10 Good
Nothing could be more embarrassing!	Crying is weakness or mind or faith.	Real men don't cry.	I'm not crying. Something's in my eye.		Don't cry too long.		People cry sometimes. You need to!	So sorry. Here's a tissue.	Let the tears come! Hear the gospel!

Make the same evaluation and rating for your own family culture. Account for any differences.

Christ For Us

Elaborate on how Jesus lived perfectly on our behalf as a man who mourned over sins' curse.

(See Luke 19:41, John 11:35, Heb 5:7)

PROPHECY FULFILLED!

The living Christ Jesus fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah 61:1-3. Read it and compare it with the promises in the Beatitudes.

Blessed Are You

How do we find this promised blessing already beginning to find fulfillment in our lives?

“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” -Psalm 34:18.