

BLESSINGS OF THE BEATTITUDES
PCF-LA Midweek Prayer Meeting
Wed. 4/03/24 – Pastora Hazel Hall

Matthew 5:1-12
Amplified Bible

Seeing the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and when He was seated, His disciples came to Him.

² Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

³ Blessed (happy, ^[a]to be envied, and ^[b]spiritually prosperous—^[c]with life-joy and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, regardless of their outward conditions) are the poor in spirit (the humble, who rate themselves insignificant), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven!

⁴ Blessed *and* enviably happy [with a ^[d]happiness produced by the experience of God's favor and especially conditioned by the revelation of His matchless grace] are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted!

⁵ Blessed (happy, blithesome, filled with pleasure, joyous, ^[e]spiritually prosperous—^[f]with life-joy and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, regardless of their outward conditions) are the meek (the mild, patient, long-suffering), for they shall inherit the earth!

⁶ Blessed *and* fortunate *and* happy *and* ^[g]spiritually prosperous (in that state in which the born-again child of God ^[h]enjoys His favor and salvation) are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (uprightness

and right standing with God), for they shall be [i]completely satisfied!

⁷ Blessed (happy, [i]to be envied, and [k]spiritually prosperous—with life-joy and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, regardless of their outward conditions) are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy!

⁸ Blessed (happy, [m]enviably fortunate, and [n]spiritually prosperous—possessing the [o]happiness produced by the experience of God's favor and especially conditioned by the revelation of His grace, regardless of their outward conditions) are the pure in heart, for they shall see God!

⁹ Blessed (enjoying [p]enviable happiness, [q]spiritually prosperous—[r]with life-joy and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, regardless of their outward

conditions) are the makers *and* [s] maintainers of peace, for they shall be called the sons of God!

¹⁰ Blessed *and* happy *and* [t] enviably fortunate *and* [u] spiritually prosperous [v] (in the state in which the born-again child of God enjoys and finds satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, regardless of his outward conditions) are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake (for being and doing right), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven!

¹¹ Blessed (happy, [w] to be envied, and [x] spiritually prosperous—[y] with life-joy and satisfaction in God's favor and salvation, regardless of your outward conditions) are you when people revile you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil things against you falsely on My account.

¹² Be glad *and* supremely joyful, for your reward in heaven is great (strong and intense), for in this same way people persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Beatitudes are blessings pronounced on virtues God wants us to exhibit. The radical sense of virtue is “strength, from straining, stretching, extending. Other definitions say, “bravery”, valor, moral goodness ; the practice of moral duties and the abstaining from vice. VIRTUE is nothing but voluntary obedience to the truth; a particular moral excellence. In other words; Beatitudes are qualities of moral excellence obtained through obedience to God based on a person’s love for Him and to which special blessings are attached.

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT Matthew 5:3

The poor in spirit are humble. They do not think more highly of themselves than they ought to. Rick Warren says, “Humility is not thinking less of yourself; is thinking of yourself less” Although love is the highest virtues; many wise people of God assert that humility is considered the most difficult one to obtain and maintain.

Ephesians 4:2 says Be completely humble and gentle; be patient bearing with one another in love.

Colossians 3:12 “Therefore as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

1 Peter 5:5 God resists the proud; but gives grace to the humble

Pride is the root of all evil and the beginning of sin. Pride causes us to compare ourselves with other people, but those who are poor in spirit avoid this because they see no need for comparison.

Satan was filled with pride and as a result and as a result, he was expelled from heaven (Ezekiel 28:17; Isaiah 14:12-15)

Peace is not possible without humility. If we humble ourselves, God lift us us (1 Peter 5:6) And God wants us to live in peace (2 Cor 13:11)

The antidote for pride is humility. Be humble in your dealings with other people. Jesus was good to people, especially those who were hurting, being mistreated or

poor. Jesus always had time to stop, listen to and help people.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN

Matthew 5:4

If we believe that God's grace and sovereignty are greater than any loss or disappointment, we can experience joy in the midst of sorrow.

2 Cor 1:3-4 He is the God of all comfort.

These verse say that when we experience God's comfort, we can comfort others with the comfort we have received. Indeed, we are blessed then we can pour out to others the comfort God has given us.

Genesis 50:20 Joseph was horribly mistreated by his brothers, yet he ended up saying " as for you, you thought evil against me, but God meant it for good to bring

about that many people should be kept alive, as they are on this day.” (AMPC)

God comforts you by giving you hope.
Romans 8:28 God will work out their problem for their good.

God can give you the peace that passes understanding in the midst of your most painful situations.

When you have sinned, He gives us comfort. Psalm 32:1-2 1 Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. 2 Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK Matthew 5:5

To be meek, is to be gentle, humble and lowly.

Meekness is not weakness but strength under control.

Jesus was meek, but He had all power.

1 Peter 2:21 another picture of Jesus meekness where Peter writes about the example Jesus set for us through His suffering. In this context, when they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly (1 Peter 2:23)

When we are mistreated, wait on God to vindicate you. Restraint may be the greatest power of all. Often when Jesus was accused of doing wrong, He did not offer even one word in His own defense.(Matthew 27:12) .

Isaiah 53:7 As a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. Jesus was meek, we are to follow His example.

It is difficult to understand, it is true that the meeker people are , the more powerful they are.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS. Matthew 5:6

The Living Bible translations says “ Happy are those who long to be just and good, for they shall be completely satisfied.

Psalms 42:1-2 “as the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, My God. My soul thirsts for God, the living God. When can I go and meet God?”

We are to hunger and thirst for it – have a recognition of our deep spiritual need for righteousness.

Philippians 3:9 Paul prayed that he would be found in Christ, “not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

2 Cor 5:21 says God made him who had no sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL MATTHEW 5:7

We all need a lot of mercy because we all make a lot of mistakes. The best way to be given mercy is to generously give it away.

First, we received mercy from God, then He expects us to let it flow through us to others. Mercy cannot be deserved or earned. It is a gift to the undeserving.

Lamentations 3:22-23 God's mercies are new every morning

Matthew 9:11-13 "I desire mercy, not sacrifice. For I have not come to call the righteous by the sinners.

Jesus came to give us mercy, not to require sacrifice and He wants us to give mercy to others and not require sacrifice of them.

Meaning of Mercy? Forgiveness. Mercy appears in the bible as it relates to forgiveness or withholding punishment.

Hebrew word for mercy is "chesed" means 'unfailing love, kindness, tenderness, and "racham" to have mercy, means to show compassion, pity and love

In Greek, "eleos" means an expression of pity

IN Greek “eleeo” active desire to remove distress

Matthew 9:36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Mark 1:41 Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!”

Show mercy to those who treat you unjustly or make mistakes.

Another way to say Matthew 5:7 You are blessed when you care. Help others, not just those deserving of it but those who are not.

BLESSED ARE IN THE PURE IN HEART.

Matthew 5:8

Those who are pure in heart are blessed to see God.

1 John 4:12 No one has ever seen God. It means that they see God working in their lives and have a close relationship with Him that grants them the privilege of being easily led by His Spirit and hearing Him. This means also that the pure in heart will see God in heaven.

The Greek Word used in Matthew 5:8 is “katharos” which means clean and pure. Physically it includes purified by fire and like a vine cleansed by pruning and so fitted to bear fruit.

The Greek Word for heart in Matthew 5:8 is “kardia:.. This word refers to the physical organ of the body and to seat of one’s personal life (both physical and spiritual).

To be pure in heart would be to be clean, blameless and unstained by guilt in the core of our being.

Being pure in heart involves having a singleness of heart toward God. WE cannot make our hearts pure.

However, when we confess our sins, God forgives us and sees us as pure before Him.

Psalm 51:1-2, 9-10 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

There is a price to pay to have a pure heart, but there is also a reward (blessing) We do not need to be afraid to make commitments to allow God to do a deep purifying work in us.

Purity of heart is not a natural trait but something you must work on. I encourage you to ask God frequently to purify your heart.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MAKE AND MAINTAIN PEACE – MATTHEW 5:9

Being a peacemaker requires spiritual maturity

2 Timothy 2:23 do not have anything to do with foolish stupid arguments, because they produce quarrels (This is a great advice!)

IN the AMPC “But refuse (shut your mind against, have nothing to do with) trifling (ill-informed, unedifying, stupid) controversies over ignorant questionings, for you know that they foster strife and breed quarrels.

As we mature in the Lord, we now know the value and power of peace.

Acts 4:32 we see the early church operating in power and in unity.

1 Peter 3:10-11 Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.

Before you can have peace with others, you must be at peace with God and with yourself. Peace with God means you must walk in obedience to God's commands.

Psalm 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.

Proverbs 28:13 Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Peace with yourselves means loving yourself = receiving God's love which is freely given.

Romans 3:23-24 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Focus on your strength and pray about our weakness. Once you have peace with God and peace with yourself, you will be able to have peace with other people.

You still have to make an effort to do so, but it is worth it because blesses the peacemakers.

**BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED
MATTHEW 5:10-12**

How can we consider ourselves blessed when we are being persecuted for doing what is right.

1 Peter 4:14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

Bearing suffering patiently is what pleases God, not the suffering itself.

1 Peter 2:19 For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God.

Someone says before “worry if the devil is leaving you alone, not when he is attacking you.

God will reward you when you suffer,

Psalm 103:6 The LORD works
righteousness and justice for all the
oppressed.

When you are suffering, think about the
reward that will come in the future, not the
suffering of the present.