

The Beatitudes: A Kingdom Perspective on People who are Blessed

Jesus' well-known Sermon on the Mount begins with what we today call the Beatitudes, a series of sayings in which Jesus describes who among us is blessed. There's no question that his list of "blessed people" differs significantly from our cultural perspective, much as it did in Jesus' day. As Jesus corrects our understanding of who is blessed, he challenges us to consider not only groups of people but also the characteristics we value. As we study Jesus' words, we discover that he's teaching us how we should be...or become...if we want to reflect the kingdom of God in our own lives.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What do you think it means to be "blessed"?
- Do you consider yourself blessed? Why or why not?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [*The Beatitudes: A Kingdom Perspective on People who are Blessed*](#)

READ [Matthew 5:1-12](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 1, what do hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney mean by "entrance requirements"—entrance to what? Why is it crucial to remember that the Beatitudes are not entrance requirements?
- For Christians, the Beatitudes from [Matthew 5:1-12](#) can serve both as a source of reassuring comfort and as a plumbline of accountability. Of the eight Beatitudes studied in this episode, which one reassured you the most? Similarly, which one challenged you and held you accountable at this time?

- Choose and reflect deeper on one or more of the following Beatitudes:
 - Verse 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Consider again the definition Darrell offers for what it means to be poor in spirit: “...those are people who *know* they are in desperate need of God’s grace and his love and his mercy, and they are humble enough to admit that even though externally they may be looking very successful to the world...” By this definition, do you think of yourself as poor in spirit? Why or why not? Do you think your thoughts, words, and actions reflect this?
 - Verse 4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” What are some of the godly sorrows you mourn? Is everything we mourn a godly sorrow? How do you describe the difference?
 - Verse 7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” Is mercy difficult to give and/or receive? Why?
 - Verse 9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” Why is the difference between *peacekeeping* and *peacemaking* so important? Can you think of examples that illustrate the difference between *peacekeeping* and *peacemaking* in life? Which resulted in mutual flourishing?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Luke 6:17-49](#), [Isaiah 40:1-2](#), [Psalm 37](#), [Matthew 18:21-25](#), [Psalm 24:3-6](#), [Psalm 51:1-12](#), [John 15:18-25](#), [James 1:2-18](#)

CONCLUSION

Now that you’ve studied Jesus’ kingdom perspective on who is blessed, reconsider the opening awareness question: Do you consider yourself blessed? Why or why not? Have a prayerful conversation with God about your answer.

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