

Beatitudes Sunday School Study

Week 1: February 6, 2022



Opening Prayer

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Read the Beatitudes from Matthew's gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice

and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Where in the Bible are the Beatitudes found?
 - They are in the gospels of Matthew and Luke but are not found in Mark or John.
- ❖ Are they the same or different in both gospels?
 - We notice they are different in each gospel. We find 8 in Matthew only 4 in Luke plus Luke offers woes as well. Reference (Isaiah 5:8-22)
 - Both Matthew and Luke show fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies of a Messiah, yet there are differences between them as well.
 - Both show in slightly different ways Jesus view of what his kingdom looks like and how to live in God's kingdom and in Luke it serves to outline Jesus mission which he state just before (Luke 4)and his vision and goals
- ❖ Here are the Bible Project's videos of these two passages:[Matthew](#) [Luke](#)
- ❖ Where is Jesus speaking from?
 - From a mountaintop in Matthew and this speaks to the listeners of a new Moses (i.e. teaching the 10 commandments from Mt. Sinai as in Exodus 19:3or Deut.9:9)or new King like King David from whom the Messiah is to be a descendant.
 - In Luke on the plain (as Luke sees the mountain as a place of prayer) but the plain is where we live out our discipleship.
- ❖ Who is Jesus speaking to?
 - In Matthew, he's speaking to his disciples and listening in is a mostly Jewish audience. In the gospel of Luke, he speaks to the disciples and a very mixed audience of both Jews and gentile people.
- ❖ What is the focus?

- For Matthew it's more spiritual, and for Luke it's more of a discipleship issue, yet both dovetail together. Like the gospels, it's the same message yet from different perspectives. Holistically we should focus on both our spirituality and how we live as disciples of Jesus, and we know that is the way of the cross.

Guiding verses from the Old Testament

- ❖ **Psalm 145:8-9:** The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.⁹The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.
- ❖ **1 Samuel 2:1-10** Hannah's song : Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory. ²"There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. ³Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. ⁴The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength. ⁵Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. ⁶The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. ⁷The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, he also exalts. ⁸He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and on them he has set the world. ⁹"He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness; for not by might does one prevail. ¹⁰The Lord! His adversaries shall be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king, and exalt the power of his anointed."
- ❖ **Leviticus 19 :1-8** Holiness code (*chapters 17-26 are all of it*): The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ²Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. ³You shall each revere your mother and father, and you shall keep my sabbaths: I am the Lord your God. ⁴Do not turn to idols or make cast images for yourselves: I am the Lord your God. ⁵When you offer a sacrifice of well-being to the Lord, offer it in such a way that it is acceptable on your behalf. ⁶It shall be eaten on the same day you offer it, or on the next day; and anything left over until the third day shall be consumed in fire. ⁷If it is eaten at all on the third day, it is an abomination; it will not be acceptable. ⁸All who eat it shall be subject to

punishment, because they have profaned what is holy to the Lord; and any such person shall be cut off from the people.

Questions to Ponder

1. What is Jesus doing just before this teaching? Where is he? Who is he talking to? What is he saying to you?
2. What does it mean to you to be “blessed”? Where do we get our happiness from?
3. How do these teachings of Jesus compare to our culture, society, country, neighborhood?
4. In the Beatitudes, Jesus turns the world upside down. What are the opposites for each of the Beatitudes in Jesus’ teaching? Or in other words, what does our culture teach us (instead of what Jesus says)?