

# The Study of the Beatitudes



**Matthew 5:1-10**

- The Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew Chapters 5-7, which contains the words of Jesus Christ as He taught His disciples at the outset of His earthly ministry.
- Matthew 5:1-12, begins with the “beatitudes” which describes the character of every Kingdom citizen.

A. As we study these Eight Beatitudes found in Matthew 5:1-10, it will help us to grow in our understanding what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

1. I believe we will learn the distinguishing marks of what it means to be a true Christian and not a carnal Christian.
2. I believe it will cause us to search our own hearts and view our own lives from Christ’s perspective and not the world’s perspective.
3. I believe these qualities reveal the true character of the citizens of the Kingdom of God. The blessing for every Kingdom citizen is the hope and glorious reward that we can expect both now and for eternity.

- Purpose: to teach us what it truly means to be a true follower of Jesus Christ.
- Goal: to make us aware of our need for God and to help us to pursue a life that is well-pleasing in the sight of God.
- Spiritual Principles: Stewardship, Faith, Obedience, Agreement, Unconditional Love
- Dr. Tony Evans says, “We could call the Beatitudes antibiotics from God’s pharmacy that can aid life transformation.” Each one includes a blessing, which is the God-given capacity to enjoy His goodness in your life and to extend that goodness to others.

B. Jesus Christ identifies those who are truly the recipients of God’s blessing and have access to the Kingdom of heaven.

1. Jesus Christ elevates those who recognize their own helplessness and desperate need for His divine grace upon their lives.
2. Character is the identity of who we are, but conduct is what we do.

3. God is always more interested in our development than He is our arrival. Behavior follows our belief. The truth of the matter is, you don't do what you say, you do what you believe.
4. The Sermon on the Mount was not given by Jesus Christ as the way of salvation for the lost, but as the way of life for true believers and citizens of the Kingdom of God.
  - What does the word "blessed" mean?
    1. The word "blessed" is known to mean happy or fortunate.
    2. The word "blessed" is a spiritual joy and satisfaction that lasts regardless of conditions; that carries one through pain, sorrow, loss, and grief.
      - As believers we are blessed not because of the things we possess but because of the amazing God we serve who has bestowed His blessing and favor upon our lives.
      - We are not blessed because of material things we possess, but who we have in our lives that is Jesus Christ.
      - God pours out His blessings upon our lives not to show the world how much stuff we have – but what a mighty God we have and serve.
      - There are men in the world that seek after power, position, possessions, pleasures, money and fame and they may obtain it, but yet their lives are filled with misery and grief. (Mark 8:36-37)
  - 1. Where you spend eternity at the end of your life has greater value than gaining the world. There're only two places that every person will spend eternity, that is either in heaven (with God) or in hell (apart from God).
  - 2. Everything in the world (power, position, possessions, pleasures, fame, money) is all passing away. (1 John 2:15-17)
- C. Jesus sends a strong warning in (Luke 12:15-19), "Take heed (Watch out!) and beware (Be on your guard) of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."
  1. Jesus deals with man's greed or covetousness. Greed or covetousness means a craving, a desire for more.
  2. It is greediness, a dissatisfaction with what is enough.

3. It includes the cravings for both material things and fleshly indulgence. It is desiring what belongs to others.
4. It is a lust so deep within a man that he finds his happiness in things rather than in God.
  - (vs. 16-19) – Jesus spoke a parable about a man who was self-centered and greedy. In these three verses alone the rich man said, “I” six times and “my” five times.
  - The man was blessed, but he never thanks God for his blessing.
  - The man called the fruits of the ground and the possessions he had, “my crops” and “my goods”. (vs. 17-18)
  - The man said that he had plenty of good things, that he could take life easy, eat, drink and be merry. (vs. 19)
  - The man became puffed up, prideful with what he had done.
  - (vs. 20-21) – But God said to him, “Fool! This night your soul will be required of you, then whose will those things be which you have provided? So is he who lays up treasures for himself, and is not rich toward God.”
  - The man was called a fool by God. He lived as a fool – lived entirely for himself. He refused to think about the truth, about the uncertainty of life.
1. As believers we are to seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness or another way to put it – Christ’s way of living and operating upon the earth. And all those things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)
  - The believer knows and loves the one from whom all the blessings flow – that is Jesus Christ.
  - The believer knows the eternal promises of God and the glorious hope of eternal life.
  - The believer knows that God’s peace and presence is always with them in a world (sin cursed world) that is quickly fading.
  - The believer knows that God will take care of all the necessities of life (food, shelter, clothing, money).
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  - The believer earnestly pursues the Kingdom of God knowing that God will work all things out for their good. (Romans 8:28)

- The believer knows that God will reward the faithful and obedient servant.
- 2. Jesus Christ is the only One who can bring true fulfillment in our lives.
  - Jesus Christ brought true fulfillment to our lives from the moment we receive His gift of salvation.
  - Jesus Christ brings purpose and meaning to our lives.
  - When believers are operating in their God-given assignment they will find fulfillment in their lives.

D. In Matthew 5:3 Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, “For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

1. Being “poor in spirit” is to be in spiritual poverty; to be conscious of one’s continual dependence on God.
2. Being “poor in spirit” is a personal awareness and recognition before God, that there is nothing in us, or about us, that warrants any sense of self-sufficiency.
3. Being “poor in spirit” does not mean that a man must be financially poor or poverty-stricken.
4. Being materially poor, does not mean a person is “poor in spirit.”
  - Jesus Christ is not talking about material poverty (food, money, possession, shelter). What does “poor in spirit” mean for true believers?
    1. It means to recognize our helplessness, our spiritual poverty or spiritual need without God. That means the believer solely trust and rely on God to meet their every need.
    2. It means to recognize that life without Jesus Christ is a life apart from God throughout all eternity.