

Beatitudes

Part 1. Blessed are...

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12 Mar 2023

Matt 5:1-12 (ESV)

Matt 5:1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2** And he opened his mouth 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 shall be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

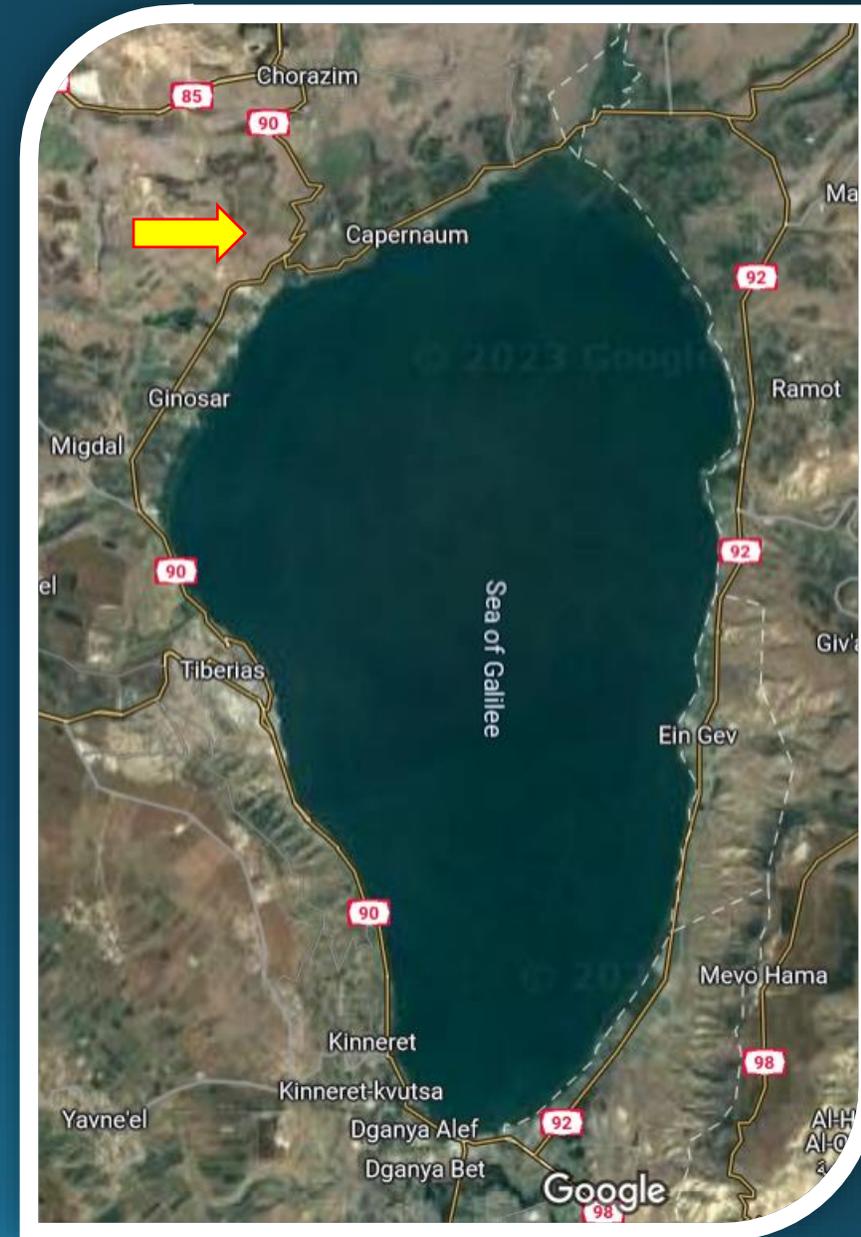
9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Introduction

- Matt 5-7 is Jesus' most well-known and longest recorded sermon. Commonly known as the "Sermon on the Mount"
- Prior to this, Jesus began public ministry (4:12-16), preached repentance (4:17), called first disciples (4:18-22) and ministered to great crowds who came from all directions (4:23-25)
- Favored location is NW part of Sea of Galilee near Capernaum. "Mountain" is relative...below sea level
- Matt 5 opens with a series of "proverb" like teachings known as the "beatitudes". Why?
- Matt 5:3-12 called the beatitudes from the Latin Vulgate bible
 - Each verse begins with "beati" in latin, thus they are called the beatitudes.
 - For example, Matt 5:3 "beātī pauperēs spīritū". (blessed are the poor in spirit)



Blessed...

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What is this word “blessed”?

- 9 times in Matt 5, Jesus says “blessed are” those who...clearly the theme.
- G3107 Makarios: blessed, happy, fortunate (from root of makar, happiness)
 - Greek Word Study Dictionary: Blessed, possessing the favor of God, that state of being marked by fullness from God. It indicates the state of the believer in Christ (Mat_5:3-11, "Blessed . . . for my sake"; Luk_6:20-22, "Blessed . . . for the Son of man's sake"), said of one who becomes a partaker of God's nature through faith in Christ (2Pe_1:4). The believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit because of Christ and as a result should be fully satisfied no matter the circumstances.
- Happiness or satisfaction, but not by circumstance, rather as a state of being; these are the BE...atitudes
- Some English translations use “happy”, but most use “blessed” for the beatitudes
- Jesus is teaching what true blessedness or happiness is in the kingdom of God
- But this “happiness” is not the world’s idea of bliss!

Blessed: Different Usages

- There are two general usages of the word “bless”, “blessed” or “blessing” in both OT and NT.
 1. Pronouncement of good, speak a blessing of goodness, speak well of
 2. Happiness, good fortune, richness, contentment, satisfaction, fulfillment

- Examples of #1

Gen 1:22 And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”

Psalms 89:52 Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and Amen.

Matt 14:19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing.

- Examples of #2

Prov 3:13 Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding,

Psalms 41:1 Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;

Luke 11:27 As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!” 28 But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

Happiness: A Worldly Perspective

- Typically, happiness is an emotional state characterized by feelings of joy, satisfaction, contentment, and fulfillment. While happiness has many different definitions, it is often described as involving positive emotions and life satisfaction.

Aristotle's 4 levels (types) of happiness:

1. from immediate gratification
2. from comparison and achievement
3. from making positive contributions
4. from achieving fulfillment.

Happiness, Aristotle suggested, could be achieved through the golden mean, which involves finding a balance between deficiency and excess.

How to be happier:

- Cultivate stronger relationships
- Get regular exercise
- Show gratitude
- Find a sense of purpose
- Pursue intrinsic goals
- Enjoy the moment
- Reframe negative thoughts

Happiness: A Worldly Perspective

Some key signs of happiness include: (note emphasis on self)

- Feeling like you are living the life you wanted
- Going with the flow and a willingness to take life as it comes
- Feeling that the conditions of your life are good
- Enjoying positive, healthy relationships with other people
- Feeling that you have accomplished (or will accomplish) what you want in life
- Feeling satisfied with your life
- Feeling positive more than negative
- Being open to new ideas and experiences
- Practicing self-care and treating yourself with kindness and compassion
- Experiencing gratitude
- Feeling that you are living life with a sense of meaning and purpose
- Wanting to share your happiness and joy with others

Redefining Greatness

- Remember, Jesus often dismantled man's ideas and preconceived notions about the kingdom and replaced them with counter-intuitive, paradoxical and eternal truths. For example, kingdom rank:

Matt 19:14 But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them! For the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Luke 9:46 Then an argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest...For whoever is the least among all of you, he is the greatest."

Matt 20:26 It shall not be this way among you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave—28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Redefining Greatness

Matt 11:11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

- The world saw an odd, wilderness man wearing weird clothes eating a weird diet and claimed he had a demon. Later imprisoned and beheaded (failure).
- Jesus saw the greatest prophet ever born.
- Yet, the least in the kingdom (poor in spirit, mourning, meek, hunger/thirst, mercy, pure in heart, peacemakers, persecuted) are actually greater than John!
- In the beatitudes, Jesus is giving a superior, deeper definition of happiness; one that defines the essence of life in the Kingdom of God.
- This blessedness is actually for the believer's benefit. God seeks to bless, do good and give rewards to His followers.

God Blesses His People

- **Jer 29:11** For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.
- **John 10:10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
- **John 15:11** These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.
- **Matt 7:11** If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!
- **Psalms 144:15** (NKJV) Happy are the people who are in such a state; Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!
- **Eph 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ
- God desires His people to be joyful, fulfilled and happy. But it must be done God's way!
- God's plan for blessing His people often involves tough circumstances.

God Himself is Characterized by Blessedness

1 Tim 1:11 in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

1 Tim 6:15 which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

- “Makarios” is a characteristic of God.
- People are invited to partake of God’s blessedness.

2 Pet 1:3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire

- When people partake of God’s divine nature, that includes His makarios.
- Jesus’ sermon teaches HOW to receive divine blessedness and happiness.

More Biblical Promises for a Blessed Life

- Blessed is the one who obeys God (Luke 11:28, Jn 13:17, Rom 14:22, James 1:25, Rev 1:3, 22:7).
- Blessed is the one who believes God (Luke 1:45, 7:23, Jn 20:29).
- Blessed is the one who receives truth revealed by God (Matt 13:16, 16:17, Luke 10:23).
- Blessed is the one who remains faithful waiting for the Lord to return (Matt 24:46, Luke 12:37-38, James 1:12, Rev 16:15)

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

- Blessed is the one who serves others (Luke 14:14, Acts 20:35).
- Blessed is the one who has received salvation (Rom 4:7-8, Rev 19:9, 20:6, 22:14).
- Blessed is the one who experiences persecution for Jesus (James 1:12, 1 Peter 3:14, 4:14).

1 Pet 4:14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

New Paradigm of Worth

God's word is consistently inverting the world's value system.

Natural man values the temporal and outward appearance.

- Samuel looking to anoint the future king from Jesse's house; sees Eliab and thinks he is the one. **1 Sam 16:7** But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."
- Parables of great treasure **Matt 13:44-46**...he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field...when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.
- Rich Fool **Luke 12:21** "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

1 Tim 6:6 Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

Jesus is doing the same thing in the Sermon on the Mount. Think eternal. Think spiritual. Think true riches. Think Jesus!

Matt 5:3-12: Jesus vs. World

Jesus says:

- 3 Blessed are the poor in spirit
- 4 Blessed are those who mourn
- 5 Blessed are the meek
- 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness
- 7 Blessed are the merciful
- 8 Blessed are the pure in heart
- 9 Blessed are the peacemakers
- 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted
- 11 Blessed are you when others revile you

The world says:

- Blessed are the rich
- Blessed are those who laugh
- Blessed are the proud and confident
- Blessed are those who are full, having achieved their heart's desires
- Blessed are tough and relentless
- Blessed are those who "have a little fun"
- Blessed are those to fight to the end
- Blessed are those who defend themselves
- Blessed are those who retaliate and get the last word in

Path to the Kingdom

- True happiness is found only by entering and dwelling in the Kingdom of God.
- The path to receive that blessing and enter the kingdom is outlined in Matt 5:3-12
 1. Poor in spirit. Realizing our spiritual poverty & bankruptcy
 2. Mourn over our spiritual poverty, godly sorrow for sin
 3. Meek: humble yourself, become receptive to the truth
 4. Respond with hunger & thirst for Jesus' righteousness and obedience
 5. Learn God's mercy and give it freely to others
 6. Develop a desire for purity, free from the world's allurements and counterfeit riches
 7. Seek peace with all people
 8. As a result of such devotion, expect to be persecuted, ridiculed and mocked.
 9. Those who endure such abuse will be rewarded generously

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Closing

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

- What is our “makarios” blessed hope?
- The appearing of Jesus, our redeemer. Our purifier. Our invitation to the marriage supper.

Rev 19:9 And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”