



Blessed

SERMON NOTES AND
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Matthew 5:3-12

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Outline

I. Introduction

II. First Truth: Jesus wants to change your life...

III. Second Truth: The Beatitudes are Good News

Isaiah 52:7

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Isaiah 61:1-2

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, comfort to those who mourn, to provide for all who grieve in Zion.

Matthew 4:24

News about Him spreads all over Syria. And people brought to Him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures and the paralyzed, and He healed them. (Matthew 4:24)

Sometimes Beatitudes are _____.

Sometimes they are a surprising _____.

IV. The Promise: With Jesus you are blessed

V. Conclusion: Seeing the Blessings

Discussion Questions

Sharing Life Together

1. What has been one of the greatest blessings in your life?
2. What has been one of the greatest obstacles for you to believe that God is blessing your life in Jesus Christ?

Reflecting on the Message Together

1. Where do you think the smallest gap exists between knowing what you are supposed to do in following Jesus and actually practicing what you know?
2. Where do you think the largest gap exists between what you know about following Jesus and actually practicing what you know?

3. What dangers surround an attitude that says, "I'm following Jesus in my heart" but my actual choices are much different than obedience?
4. What's wrong with viewing the Beatitudes as a list of attitudes we must meet in order to receive God's blessings?
5. Why is there truth that a saved life will end up conforming to attitudes of wanting to be "pure in heart", "demonstrating mercy", and "seeking to establish peace"?
6. If the Beatitudes of Jesus are first and foremost surprising promises of how God is blessing us through Jesus Christ and not instructions on what you must do to be saved, does this feel like good news to you? Does it feel like life changing good news that is impossible for you to forget? Why or why not?
7. How did God speak to you through this message on the Beatitudes?
8. How can we pray for one another?