

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WOEK

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Blessedness – Matthew 5:3-12 (Text on reverse aside)

Overview: The Beatitudes, that introduction to the Sermon on the Mount, are among the most familiar Scriptures to many Christians. In his book, Core 52, author Mark E. Moore writes about these verses: *"Clearly we all want to be happy. There's nothing wrong with that. God wants you to be happy as well. So what is it that will contribute to your greatest happiness? Jesus tackled this question head-on. Each of the statements turns the totem pole of social expectations on its head. They each begin with the word "blessed" (or "happy"; think "fortunate" or "lucky"). What Jesus said will make us happy is counter-intuitive" to worldly thinking. He continues, "The sermon's big theme of being "persecuted for righteousness sake" turned culture on its head. Christians are part of an upside down kingdom where losers are winners, the dead live, the poor are rich, and those who pick up a cross experience resurrection."*

Video: "The Beatitudes" is a clip from Episode 8 of the video series, "The Chosen".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02hblq7rFDs>

Segment Questions: Matthew 5:3-10

- One person read one of the Beatitudes from the three versions of the Bible out loud. Then discuss: What words or phrases from The Message and/or The Annotated Bible shed light and, possibly a different perspective, on this verse?
- How have you observed or experienced a blessing like this?

Segment Questions: Matthew 5:11-12

- Usually when I say "I am blessed," I itemize the good things that have happened in my life: a good career, a healing from illness, children doing well, minor injuries from a major accident, etc. If we follow the intent that Jesus had, what persecution, shaming, or other results of living as a Christian events in your life should also be considered as being blessed by God?

Closing Prayer:

- 1 Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall, where Jesus Christ is all in all!
For if he were not dwelling there, how dark and poor and void it were!
- 2 Oh, blest that house where faith is found, and all in charity abound
to trust their God and serve him still, and do in all his holy will.
- 3 Oh, blest that house; it prospers well! In peace and joy the parents dwell,
and in their children's lives is shown how richly God can bless his own.
- 4 Then here will I and mine today a solemn cov'nant make and say:
though all the world forsake his Word, my house and I will serve the Lord.

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

³ “You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

³ “Blessed [spiritually prosperous, happy, to be admired] are the poor in spirit [those devoid of spiritual arrogance, those who regard themselves as insignificant], for theirs is the kingdom of heaven [both now and forever].

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁴ “You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

⁴ “Blessed [forgiven, refreshed by God’s grace] are those who mourn [over their sins and repent], for they will be comforted [when the burden of sin is lifted].

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

⁵ “You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.\

⁵ “Blessed [inwardly peaceful, spiritually secure, worthy of respect] are the [gentle [the kind-hearted, the sweet-spirited, the self-controlled]], for they will inherit the earth.

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

⁶ “You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.

⁶ “Blessed [joyful, nourished by God’s goodness] are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness [those who actively seek right standing with God], for they will be [completely] satisfied.

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

⁷ “You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.

⁷ “Blessed [content, sheltered by God’s promises] are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

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

⁸ “You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

⁸ “Blessed [anticipating God’s presence, spiritually mature] are the pure in heart [those with integrity, moral courage, and godly character], for they will see God

9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons^[a] of God.

⁹ “You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.

⁹ “Blessed [spiritually calm with life-joy in God’s favor] are the makers *and* maintainers of peace, for they will [express His character and] be called the sons of God.

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

¹⁰ “You’re blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God’s kingdom.

¹⁰ “Blessed [comforted by inner peace and God’s love] are those who are persecuted for ^[a]doing that which is morally right, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven [both now and forever].

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.

¹¹⁻¹² “Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don’t like it, *I* do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

¹¹ “Blessed [morally courageous and spiritually alive with life-joy in God’s goodness] are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil things against you because of [your association with] Me. ¹² Be glad and exceedingly joyful, for your reward in heaven is great [absolutely inexhaustible]; for in this same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you