



Part 2: Who's In?

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The Sermon on the Mount: Matthew Chapters 5-7

"The Sermon on the mount is probably the best-known part of the teaching of Jesus, though arguably it is the least understood, and certainly it is the least obeyed. It is the nearest thing to a manifesto he ever uttered, for it is his own description of what he wanted his followers to be and to do." – John Stott

The first 12 verses of the Sermon on the Mount are known as the Beatitudes.

They begin to answer the question, "Which life is the good life?"

Matthew 5:1-12

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.

bless•ed (adjective) self-contained, or receiving God's approval

A First Look at The Beatitudes

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

Blessed are the blatantly, unceasingly humble.

2. **Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.**

When we don't deal with tragedy, tragedy stays with us.

3. **Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.**

Meekness: strength under control

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

We receive God's approval when we crave spiritual wholeness and right relationship with one another

5. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Those who have compassion for others in need

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

Our motives and true desires show the real content of our hearts

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

Jewish definition of peacemaking: To sit down in one's heart; to be at rest; to relax.

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

Our God is real and relevant even when life is at its absolute worst.

Reminder: If we're not careful, the Sermon on the Mount can become the biggest "to do" list we've ever experienced.

What if the Beatitudes are a summary of what happens when the Holy Spirit works through us presently, and what the good life in Jesus looks like?

Jesus answers the question: "Who can enter my kingdom?" Everyone

Next Steps

1. Read Matthew chapters 5-7 (The Sermon on the Mount).
2. If you haven't already, answer this question for yourself: If I could have whatever I want, what would it be?

Small Group Questions

- 1) Were you able to enjoy any of the great weather this week? What did you do?
- 2) As a group, brainstorm all the things you can think of that American culture would include in "the good life." Don't discuss – just shout 'em out!
- 3) In what ways do feel you have been blessed in life? Take a minute to talk about some of the things you're grateful for.
- 4) Read the Beatitudes out loud as a group. Thinking back to your answers to question 2, which ones did Jesus see as important?
- 5) Has Jesus' definition of blessing challenged your previous notions? If so, how?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now?

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