

# Matthew 5:1-12

## How's My Attitude?

In the book of Matthew, we have seen many prophecies of the Messiah fulfilled in Jesus, 8 in total so far.

- John the Baptist preaching repentance and proclaiming that ***the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.***
- Matthew has told us of Jesus baptism by his cousin John.  
*(If you haven't been baptized yet, call me let's get it done!)*
- We have seen Jesus being led by the Holy Spirit to be tempted by Satan and Jesus overcoming temptation by the Word of God. An example that we must strive to apply to our lives.

### ***John 16:33***

***"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."***

Do you want to know God?

Know your Bible!

Do you want to a live victorious life in Jesus?

Know your Bible!

If Jesus quoted scripture to overcome the enemy, quoting scripture to the enemy is probably a good model to follow.

And now?

Jesus ministry has begun! He is calling people to follow him and preaching.

What is He preaching?

### ***Matthew 4:17***

***From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."***

Jesus is going all over Galilee, teaching in the synagogues preaching the Gospel and healing. People are coming from all over to see Jesus!

Think about this for a moment. People are coming from all over this region.

They are hearing Jesus share the Gospel and people are being healed from:

- All kinds of sickness
- All kinds of disease
- From torments, demon possession, epileptics and paralytics all being healed

The impact of this would have been literally unbelievable.

In that time, a person that you know that is paralyzed, you may have seen them on the street begging for food.

Then one day, there is a knock on your door.

And this same person that you have seen or helped for years is standing there telling you that you have got to come with him and see this guy Jesus.

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He is trying to explain what happened yet as you are looking at this person, totally healed, your mind is desperately trying to comprehend not only all that he is saying but what you can visibly see.

Thing about it! What if this happened today?

What if a move of God happened in our lives right now? Then in our home and family?

Then in our church? In our community?

It could? Yet it would be like the scenario I just described.

Some would struggle with unbelief, Jesus response would be come and see!

Some would struggle with intellectual understanding, like Nicodemus?

I could go on, but I hope you get the point.

Jesus has come! Jesus is still changing lives.

Has Jesus changed your life?

And now we come to 3 chapters in our Bibles that have completely turned society and our culture upside down.

I want to encourage you in the next few weeks ahead, to read **Matthew 5-6-7** in one setting.

Imagine how these topics and instruction would impact the people around you.

Imagine how it would be to sit before Jesus and listen.

As you read these words of life, your heart is moved to inspiration, conviction and change.

You will never hear or read anything like this!

The Son of God, Jesus the Christ, the Savior of the world is instructing us as believers how to live. Our model and standard, our foundation for everything we do in life.

Jesus doesn't give a salvation message in these 3 chapters.

He is giving us instruction on kingdom living. How to do life as a follower of Christ.

These 3 chapters are what we refer to as **The Sermon on the Mount**.

Some teach that the Sermon on the Mount is the way to heaven.

That if you attempt to live your life as Jesus describes, you will be worthy of eternity with Jesus.

The Sermon on the Mount is not a way to salvation.

As you read thru these 3 chapters, you will find that some of this is impossible to live out.

Verses 22-23

If you are angry with your brother, it's like you have committed murder.

Verses 43-44

You have been taught to love your neighbor and hate your enemy.

Jesus says to love your enemy.

This is tough stuff!

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Have you ever been down at the Barbican, trying to find a parking space?  
You see one as you drive by, then turn around and by the time you get back to it, someone else pulled in front of you and took your spot? YOUR SPOT!  
Then you have to park in Egypt and walk a mile or 2 to get to your destination?  
Love your enemy? Hate your brother?

We cannot do this stuff, yet Jesus is giving us instruction on how to live AS A BELIEVER in Jesus!

Jesus has been preaching repentance. Things in our lives change when we repent!  
When we accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord!

The Sermon on the Mount applies ONLY to those who are His disciples.

Jesus has many people following Him, so He comes to the side of a hill and begins to teach His disciples. There are probably thousands of people here.

- People that are curious
- People that want to see Jesus perform a miracle
- People that are skeptical
- Some people, when they saw Jesus heading up the hill, decided to go get lunch? Oh, He is talking now, let's get a bite to eat and come back later.

Jesus, with all the people around, retreats up the hill and the people that really want to hear what He has to say ***His disciples***, follow Him up.

The beginning 12 verses of ***Matthew 5*** are what we call the **Be-Attitudes**.

One commentator wrote that we have labeled these the Be-Attitudes, not the Do-Attitudes.

*This is what God causes a man or woman to be, rather than a description of what God demands you to do. Richard Cimino*

God has a premium on being, why? Because what we do flows out of who we are.

### ***Philippians 2:13***

***for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.***

Again, God has a premium on being, why? Because what we do flows out of who we are.

### ***Matthew 5:1-12***

***And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:***

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

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

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

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

***Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.***

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

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

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

***Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.***

***Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."***

Pray

***Blessed*** is an amazing word!

We say "bless you" when someone sneezes.

We sing *Bless the Lord, oh my soul oh my soul, worship His Holy Name!*

Or we say to someone, "You are blessed"

Blessed is the Greek word **makarios** (mä-kä'-re-as) meaning-happy!

Bless-To pronounce a wish of happiness to one; to express a wish or desire of happiness.

Webster's 1828 defines-

BLESS'ED-Made happy or prosperous; extolled; pronounced happy.

BLESS'ED-Happy; prosperous in worldly affairs; enjoying spiritual happiness and the favor of God; enjoying heavenly felicity.

When you say "bless you" when someone sneezes.

You are saying, I am happy for you that you did not sneeze on me.

We sing *Bless the Lord, oh my soul, oh my soul, worship His Holy Name!*

We are singing, the Lord is happy, and I am going to worship Him.

"You are so blessed"

You must be really happy!

*The world says happiness hinges on what you do, God says true happiness hinges on who you are. Richard Cimino*

So as we read the words ***blessed are***, what we are saying is, **happy is...**

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These Be-Attitudes:

- Vs 3 attitudes toward ourselves
- Vs 4-6 attitudes toward sin and failure
- Vs 7-9 attitudes toward the Lord
- Vs 10-16 attitudes toward the world

### **Matthew 5:3**

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

We can look at the word poor and immediately think in a financial category. Or that maybe something bad has happened? We may have lost everything physically and financially.

This at face value this doesn't make sense. I'm happy when I'm poor?

But this isn't the context of poor here.

This is a choice! I am choosing to be poor.

I am choosing to be ***poor in spirit***.

This is where it all begins for anyone that has given their life to Jesus.

We choose to submit to the Lord to remove our wants and desires.

We choose to trust Jesus!

We choose HIS wants and desires for our life and not our personal wants and desires.

### **Luke 9:23**

***Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."***

Remember, Jesus has been preaching ***repentance*** and that ***the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand***.

Jesus is teaching and explaining life in the Kingdom of God.

This sermon has no application for the non-believer.

This first Be-Attitude was so contrary to what the religious leaders were teaching the people. The list of rules and regulations that you had to follow to get to heaven.

God gave them 10 Commandments.

The Pharisees combed thru the Torah and defined 613 Levitical laws and they prided themselves on keeping them, but the heart of God for His people was lost.

There was probably an expectation of the people that they would hear more rules and regulations about God.

But Jesus teaches us about being blessed, being happy, an inner satisfaction.

For us, happiness depends on happenings. What makes me happy.

Jesus teaches us that you will be happy when you lay aside you and follow Him.

Happy are those that empty themselves of themselves and fill themselves with Jesus.

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How's My Attitude?

## **Matthew 5:4**

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

Another paradox, how can I be happy when I am mourning.

Well, when we mourn, we are comforted.

What am I mourning about and who is comforting me?

We all mourn about different things.

- Life
- The loss of a loved one
- Being hurt in relationships

This falls into sin and failure.

But do we mourn about sin? Our sin?

We often mourn about sin when we are dealing with the consequences of our sin.

We mourn when we have been exposed and we want the feelings of hurt and pain to go away.

But do we mourn for sin or because of sin?

One commentator wrote:

*The weeping is for the low and needy condition of both the individual AND society; but with the awareness that they are low and needy because of sin.*

*Those who mourn actually mourn over sin and its effects. David Guzik*

## **2 Corinthians 7:9-10**

***Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.***

***For godly sorrow produces repentance **leading to salvation**, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.***

Those who mourn over their sin are promised comfort.

God allows this grief into our lives **as a path**, not as a destination.

## **Ecclesiastes 3:4**

***A time to weep, and a time to laugh;***

***A time to mourn, and a time to dance;***

This is how we can mourn, be comforted by the Lord and be happy at the same time.

Happy are those that mourn for what breaks God's heart. Sin in our lives.

## **Matthew 5:5**

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

We many times confuse meek with weak.

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They are not the same word. If you are meek, you are willing to submit or work under authority. Or as some have defined meekness, strength under control.

So when we are meek, we are happy. And we also inherit something. This is an interesting statement, ***for they shall inherit the earth.***

1. One view is that we will ***inherit the earth*** or reign on earth in the Millennium.

### ***Revelation 20:6***

***Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a 1000 years.***

2. Another view is that this is a promise of God that He will not let His saints be taken advantage of in the end.

There are a few others, but I'm not sure the inheritance should be the main focus.

Being happy is being meek, being meek is being happy.  
The focus is our submission to the authority of the Lord.

Happy are those that are meek or disciplined to submit to the Lord.

### ***Matthew 5:6***

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

When it is close to dinner time, Missy will ask me; are you hungry?  
My answer is always the same. I'm always hungry!

And as much as I love to eat and satisfy this body, do I have the same desire for the Lord?  
Do I have a desire to be righteous? Do I desire righteousness like I desire food?

Strong's has an interesting definition for this Greek word- in a broad sense: state of him who is as he ought to be, righteousness, the condition acceptable to God.

Wow!

This is something we all should pray for!

Lord, help us in our heart, mind, soul and strength to be in the condition acceptable to You!

Remember when Jesus was tempted? 40 days without any food?

I would be hungry after 1 hour. But Jesus, He had His mind on heavenly things.

### ***Matthew 4:4***

***But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"***

God our Creator, is the only thing that will ever satisfy us!

# Matthew 5:1-12

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- Your job will not satisfy you
- Your spouse will not satisfy you
- Going on holiday will not satisfy you
- The house you live in or the car you drive will not satisfy you

Luke tells us that before Jesus went to be tempted, He was filled with something.

### ***Luke 4:1***

***Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,***

The more I invest in my relationship with Jesus, allowing the Holy Spirit to fill me, the more my fleshly desires die and we live in the peace of God. Being happy!

### ***Ephesians 5:17-18***

***Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,***

Paul explains this principle to us.

The will of God is that I am not to let my flesh control my life.

I am to be filled with the Spirit of God and trust Him with my life.

Happy are those that desire Jesus!

### ***Matthew 5:7***

***Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.***

Happy are the people that show/give mercy.

You cannot give or show something that you do not have.

People that are merciful, have received mercy.

The definition of mercy- not getting what you deserve.

We are very needy when it comes to receiving the mercy of God.

We are not so good about showing that mercy to others. We justify not showing mercy.

- We have rights you know!
- Did you see what they did to me?
- That person has hurt me and that will NEVER happen again.

Think about it for a moment, if us as believers, have received the mercy of God.

Wouldn't that be an expectation of us to show that mercy to others?

- *The merciful one will show it to those who are weaker and poorer.*
- *The merciful one will always look for those who weep and mourn.*
- *The merciful one will be forgiving to others, and always looking to restore broken relationships.*

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- *The merciful one will be merciful to the character of other people, and choose to think the best of them whenever possible.*
- *The merciful one will not expect too much from others.*
- *The merciful one will be compassionate to those who are outwardly sinful.*
- *The merciful one will have a care for the souls of all men. David Guzik*

Do you want to be shown mercy? Show mercy!

Remember David, before he was actually king? He was anointed king and for over 10 years, King Saul hunted him down. Treated him horribly.

3 times David could have killed Saul, but David was showed mercy to Saul.

David was not going to take the throne by his doing.

### ***1 Samuel 26:11***

***"The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD's anointed.***

And when David blew it, I mean REALLY blew it.

- Not leading his men in battle
- Adultery
- Lying
- Murder

God showed mercy to David.

Happy are those that show mercy!

### ***Matthew 5:8***

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

What does ***pure in heart*** mean?

A pure-hearted person is one whose motives are not divided, they are consistently focused on the Lord, not on their personal desires. Their thoughts are holy and their conscience is clean.

If that is it, I have a long way to go. Right?

Have you ever heard someone speak, saying all the right things, sounding really spiritual? But you see their day to day walk. Something isn't matching up.

The problem isn't the place they live, the people they are around, the job they have. There is a heart problem.

### ***Luke 6:45***

***"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.***

# Matthew 5:1-12

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Remember, this is about being, not doing. Your actions will show your heart.

So with my pure heart, I will ***see God?***

The pure in heart person:

- can see God in nature
- can see God in Scripture

It could be some other things:

- Seeing God in the fellowship with believers
- Maybe a supernatural experience
- Seeing Jesus when He returns
- Seeing God in eternity

I don't know about you but any of these would make me happy!

Purifying is a painful experience. The testing of life removes the impurities.

Precious metals are purified when the temperature rises. The impurities float to the top and are removed. Are things heating up in your life? Maybe God is doing some purifying?

Happy are the pure in heart!

### ***Matthew 5:9***

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

Now this does NOT describe living in peace. This is someone that actually does something to bring peace.

### ***Romans 12:21***

***Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.***

You all have done this at one time or another.

Something has happened and you wanted to retaliate, you wanted to pour out the wrath of God. But something happened.

Something inside of you decided to make peace. To humble yourself and trust the Lord. You apologized, you did something loving to the person you were upset with.

And in doing that, you were relieved, you were at peace, you were happy. You were being and acting like a child of God.

Our Bible reading a few days ago:

### ***2 Corinthians 5:18-19***

***Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us **the ministry of reconciliation**, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us **the word of reconciliation**.***

# Matthew 5:1-12

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Happy are those who make peace!

### **Matthew 5:10**

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

Have you ever been persecuted for Jesus? For doing the right thing?

I have had co-workers give me grief for my Christian walk.  
But persecuted? I don't think so.

I have read some amazing stories of people being persecuted for the Lord.  
Taking a stand for Jesus and because you teach the Bible, you are dragged from your home and then in front of your family, you are told to renounce Christ or die.  
Pastors, their families, the people they minister to, all lose their lives because of their faith in Jesus.

Being a crazy fanatic, breaking the law or being so prideful in making a point to someone that doesn't agree with you is not persecution. This suffering is self-inflicted.

### **1 Peter 4:15-16**

***But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.  
Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.***

It is not suffering for the Lord when you are doing things you shouldn't be doing and putting the Lord's name on it. This is NOT what Jesus is referring to.

Happy are those who suffer persecution for their faith in Jesus!

### **Matthew 5:11**

***Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.***

This one is different, this one probably happens to a lot of us.

If you were like me, before I became a Christian there were a lot of guys that I thought were my friends. Sticking together thru thick and thin.

Then Jesus showed up. He changed my heart, my life, my attitude and my friends didn't like it. In fact, you will find out who your REAL friends are when you become a believer. You will also find out who your real friends are when you go thru a really difficult time.

How crazy is this?

For Jesus to tell you: *Hey, when people make fun of you because of Me, when they say all kinds of awful, hurtful things. I am proud of you, so be happy in all of this.*

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Can you imagine the looks on people's faces when He is teaching this?

- What did He say?
- Are you serious?
- I didn't sign up for this?
- This makes absolutely no sense at all.

You can be happy when people make fun of you because of Me.

### **Matthew 5:12**

***Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.***

Think of all the OT prophets:

- Elijah- hunted by Jezebel
- Jeremiah- put in a dungeon because he spoke the truth to the king
- Daniel- thrown in the lion's den because he prayed daily
- Hosea- challenged to show God's love to a woman that didn't love him
- John the Baptist- beheaded for confronting the sin of a leader

We could go on for another hour about their stories, yet Jesus says there is a ***reward in heaven*** for this. Be happy about this, I will have something for you in eternity.

The church will soon suffer as well. In the book of Acts, we see suffering.

- Because of an extreme misrepresentation of the Lord's Supper, they were accused of having love feast and cannibalism.
- They wouldn't bow down and worship Caesar.
- Families divided over someone becoming a Christian.

Later in this sermon, Jesus puts some things in perspective for us.

### **Matthew 6:19-21**

***"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."***

For some, none of this would make sense, some will end up walking away. But for those who actually put their trust in the Lord. A weight is lifted!

The world says happiness hinges on what you do, God says happiness hinges on who you are!