

## Strange Blessings

MATTHEW 5:1-12

### The Setting

When Jesus comes on the scene the Jews are

Small People  
oppressed People

They were looking for some way to break this status when a radical new leader comes along named JESUS.

He lives in the mountains like most people seeking to bring a new rule where as to make it difficult for people trying to kill him.

The words that Jesus is about to speak have been both INSPIRING and CONTROVERSIAL throughout the ages.

#### CONTROVERSIAL

1. Turn the other cheek when hit
2. Walk an extra mile when asked
3. Love our enemy and pray for those who use you

#### INSPIRING

1. When Gandhi was killed he was in possession of "The sermon on the mount"
2. Gandhi also quoted from this sermon often

The biggest impact however is found in Matthew 4:25- Matthew 5:1

Population of cities in Jesus' day  
Nazareth 400  
Bethlehem 1,000

While there were some larger cities; when you begin to think that Jesus gained crowds from 5,000-20,000 (some estimate), you have to realize Jesus is shutting down cities when people go to hear Him preach.

### The Audience

There are two groups present: the "crowd" and the "disciples"  
It seems clear that the CROWD is listening in Matthew 7:28  
but the message is directed to the DISCIPLES Matthew 5:1

Sunday mornings exist for the Believers to GROW

*The weight of a pastor is not just to teach people WHAT the Bible says  
but to teach people HOW to follow WHAT the Bible says **Matthew 28:20***

### The Message

## *Blessed*

Before Jesus gives a command He gives a blessing. Just like in Exodus 20.

The Order of God is that He **Demonstrates** and then He **Dictates**

He shows sacrifice for us and then ask us to sacrifice for others  
He shows mercy for us and the ask we show mercy to others  
He forgives us and the ask that we forgive others

## *Poor in Spirit*

**“DR Brunner- this is the strongest word for poverty available to Matthew.”**

## *The Difference between Mathews Gospel and Likes Gospel*

Matthew speaks of poor in SPIRIT (Matthew 5:3)  
Luke speaks just to the poor (Luke 6:20)

Jesus cares for both my spiritual well being and my physical plot.

Look briefly at the other people to whom Jesus blesses:

1. Those who mourn- or suffered great loss
2. Those who are meek- are suffer without retaliation
3. Hunger and thirst after righteousness- Luke focuses on the actually starving people
4. Those who are merciful
5. Those who are pure
6. Those who are peacemakers
7. Those who are persecuted

The ones Jesus says are blessed are the ones the crowd would say are unfortunate.

Jesus blessed those considered less fortunate

Luke's gospel goes as far as to say the people who are not like this- should be concerned!

**BUT HOW ARE THEY BLESSED MORE THAN OTHERS**

- I. The Kingdom is EVENTUALLY theirs. (Matthew 5:4-8)
  - A. 1 Peter 1:1 Peter is writing epistle teaching us how to live Christlike and the first thing he calls his audience - “Strangers”. It is important that we understand this is not my home.
  - B. My friend was waiting for his house tone built and stayed with another friend. But though he had a bed and bathroom he refused to use them completely.
    1. He slept on the floor
    2. He kept his toiletry in their bags
    3. WHY? This was not his home.
- II. The Kingdom is SPECIFICALLY theirs. (Matthew 5:3,10)
  - A. Matthew 9:12-13 the Healthy don't need the doctor but the sick do
  - B. I was at work and there was a young lady there who was utterly depressed, she had just been through a dramatic experience in her life. We spent the entire day trying to comfort her but nothing worked. She had no real family here and her boyfriend lived out of state. We gave her flowers, and a card but it didn't seem to help much. Later that

evening we walked her to her car at the end of the shift but there was a man standing at her car- her boyfriend she dropped the flowers and card and left us standing there. She ran to him and hugged him. She said, "You NEVER just randomly show up" He replied, "Before now there had never been a need."

- C. God will show up when we need Him most
- III. The Kingdom is EXCLUSIVELY theirs (Luke 6:20-26)
  - A. One of my favorite songs as a Kid was "No you cant get to heaven"
    - 1. Sing verse Roller-skate and Limosine (Gasoline)
  - B. You can't get to heaven with a RICH SPIRIT
    - 1. You cant do this on your own
      - a) Changed life
      - b) Exchanged life