

Series KINGDOM VALUES PT: 1 of 4

BLESSED ARE

I once heard a missionary describe the moment everything fell apart in his life.

He had training, support, vision, and passion. He moved into a difficult region believing he was going to make a difference for God. But within months, the plan unraveled. Funding dried up. His health declined. The people rejected him. He sat alone one night and prayed:

“Lord... I have nothing left. I thought I came here to bring You something... but I don't even have myself together.”

And in that moment, he sensed the Lord whisper:

“Good. Now I can finally use you.”

Years later he said, “That was the first time I understood the Beatitudes. **God wasn't asking me to impress Him.** He was reshaping my attitude. He wasn't calling me to perform for the Kingdom **He was inviting me to live in it.**”

That is where Jesus begins the greatest sermon ever preached. The sermon on the mount!!!
Not with rules....Not with performance...But with posture. With attitude.

Our theme this year comes from **John 10:10**:

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

This is both a warning and an invitation.

The enemy wants to disrupt, divide, and destroy...especially when a church is growing and becoming healthy.

Jesus is calling us into life... full life... abundant life.

And that life comes from **proximity to Him. From abiding**. From living out His teachings.

Jesus says in **Matthew 28:20**

“...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always...”

Teaching becomes the bridge that moves us...from our thinking to Christ's truth..

from self-reliance (I can do everything) to Spirit dependence (I need you Lord because I can't).

From cultural values to Kingdom values

That brings us to the Sermon on the Mount... and the Beatitudes.

What Are the Beatitudes?

Let's understand the word first.

The term Beatitude comes from the Latin word *beatus*, meaning:

blessed, flourishing, deeply fulfilled.

Jesus originally spoke these words in Aramaic. Matthew recorded them in Greek. Later, when the Bible was translated into Latin, each line began with the word *beati* ...meaning blessed are.

Over time, the Church began calling these statements

The Beatitudes..the blessings that define the life of a Kingdom citizen.

But I like to call them the **BE-Attitudes**.

Because Jesus isn't just describing who is blessed...He's describing how we live.

This is the attitude of a life inside the upside-down Kingdom of God. The Greatest Paradox

The Upside-Down Kingdom...slide with info at end!

To a non believer life looks like:

strength wins...power secures...self-promotion elevates you...comfort defines success

In God's Kingdom:

surrender wins...humility elevates..dependence on Holy Spirit strengthens...brokenness becomes blessing...Denying self is Growth...persecution is welcomed...to die is to live!

The Beatitudes are not suggestions.

They are the characteristics of a disciple...biproducs of growth and maturity...

They are the heart posture of someone living submitted to the Lord.

The BE-Attitudes found in Matthew 5

1-12

There is a natural flow of the Beatitudes: take a picture so you can look it over.

| Phase | Beatitudes | What God Is Doing | Heart Posture Being Formed | Key Outcome |
|---------------------|---|--|---|----------------------|
| Breaking You | 1. Poor in spirit 2. Those who mourn 3. The meek | God dismantles pride and self-reliance | Humility, repentance, surrender | Dependence on God |
| Filling You | 4. Hunger & thirst for righteousness 5. The merciful 6. Pure in heart | God reshapes desires and motivations | Holy longing, grace, undivided devotion | Inner transformation |
| Testing You | 7. Peacemakers 8. Persecuted for righteousness 9. Rejected for Jesus | God proves and refines your faith publicly | Courage, endurance, allegiance | Kingdom witness |

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

To be poor in spirit means recognizing your complete need for God.

It is the death of self-sufficiency...and the beginning of surrender.

Biblical example...The tax collector Luke 18:9–14

While the Pharisee boasted in his righteousness, the tax collector cried out.

“God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

Jesus said that man went home justified.

Why? **...all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”**

Because the Kingdom belongs to those who know they need God.

- Psalm 51:17 “A broken and contrite heart... you will not despise.”
- James 4:6 “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

The Kingdom begins where pride ends.

I can't tell you how many times in my life I would encounter something that was challenging and scary and I would not submit it to God and let Him guide me through...that was immature Jesse...but with age and a little wisdom...I have discovered it is way easier to submit all things to God...instead of pushing through in my own strength to only wind up in the end worse off and having to invite Jesus into the situation...So humble yourself now because that is the point where your reality and heaven collide and supernatural begins!

David in **Psalm 51:16-17** **You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.**

Humility is a sacrifice, it takes so much more intentionality...it is more difficult than killing an animal and presenting it. And God knows this...that is why Poor in spirit will be blessed!

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

This is not just the grief of losing someone...

This is mourning over sin and the feeling of conviction from the Holy Spirit... brokenness and shame... and distance from God because the further we get away from Him the more pressures from the world we feel.

Biblical example...David Psalm 51

After his sin, David didn't justify himself. He wept. Repented. Returned, and God restored him.

- **2 Corinthians 7:10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death**
- **Isaiah 61:1–3 God binds up the brokenhearted...to comfort all who mourn,**

Verse 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

Comfort comes when honesty replaces denial and surrender is sought.

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

Meekness is strength surrendered to God.

Meekness is not weakness.

Biblical example: Moses in Numbers 12:3

WAS Called the meekest man on earth..yet he led a nation, confronted Pharaoh, and carried authority.

His power came from submission, not domination.

Supporting Scripture:

- Philippians 2:5–8 Jesus humbled Himself
- 1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves under God's hand

The world says control everything...The Kingdom says trust God with everything.

—A Navy SEAL was once asked what makes someone truly dangerous.

He didn't say strength. He didn't say aggression. He did not say the man next to you.

Do you know what he said? "Control."

He explained that the most powerful person in the room isn't the biggest or the loudest... it's the one who has the ability to act but chooses restraint. That's meekness. It's not weakness.

It's strength under control. Jesus had the power to call down angels...

But He chose the cross.

That's the kind of power the Kingdom honors.

It's having the power to crush somebody but realizing that Jesus could crush you and instead He went to the cross...that is meekness

—In 1995, after the Oklahoma City bombing, people expected anger from the victims' families. One father, whose young daughter had been killed, was interviewed on national television.

The reporter asked if he hated Timothy McVeigh.

He paused and said, "I'm angry at what he did. But **I refuse to let hate own my heart**. If I lose my ability to forgive, he's taken more from me than my daughter."

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

This is a deep desire for alignment with God. **Psalm 42:1 — "As the deer pants for water..."**

God fills those who crave Him more than comfort.

-How many of you have ever been so thirsty you would do anything for a drink?

Story of me running around lake Gtown...how I was so thirsty and hurting...

This is what it should be like to want to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

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

Mercy is getting a DO-OVER a second chance...not receiving the punishment you deserve...Mercy flows from remembering what we've been forgiven.

Matthew 6:14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. **15** But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

You cannot hold grace and bitterness at the same time. Mercy matters

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

Purity is undivided devotion. It is not self-attained, but a heart created by God, often following repentance and renewing of ones mind...to be follow Christ closely

Psalm 24:3–4 clean hands and a pure heart...they will receive blessing from the Lord
and vindication from God their Savior.

A divided heart distorts vision and purpose...

A devoted heart sees God clearly.

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

Peacemakers step into tension to bring restoration.

Romans 12:18-19 live at peace as far as it depends on you...“It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.

Peace is not passive it is not a pushover it is intentional and can be hard at times...but It is Kingdom work allowing for God's glory to shine.

8) Blessed are those persecuted for righteousness.

Faithfulness carries a cost.

2 Timothy 3:12 everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted

Persecution is a validation of faith and a way to share in the sufferings of Christ.

This can look like physical violence, imprisonment, social isolation, ridicule, and slander.

Christians are called to respond with love, prayer, and endurance rather than retaliation.

Some of us want the blessing of the Kingdom without the cost of the Kingdom.

9) Blessed are you when rejected because of Jesus.

Acts 5:41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

After preaching about Jesus, the apostles were arrested, beaten, and warned never to speak His name again.

They didn't defend themselves. They didn't retreat. They didn't complain.

Scripture says...“**They left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.**”

Rejoicing...Not because pain felt good. But because their identity was anchored in Christ.

When rejection doesn't make you flip flop on your faith...**because you know your home is not here...because you know your treasures are in Heaven...because you know that through it all God will receive the glory! rejection does not define you. It builds you**

-We close this out with VS 12...**Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven,** for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Where Does God Need to Break You So He Can Bless You?

We love the word “blessed.” But every Beatitude begins with surrender.

Poverty of spirit... mourning, meekness...hunger...mercy...purity...peacemaking...persecution.

The blessing is real. But it comes through dependence on Him and attitude of the heart.

Abundant life is not found in control...It is found in alignment, it's found in humility, it's found in surrender. .

Reflection Questions

I want you to take a picture of these questions and sit in them and answer them honestly...

Where am I still self-reliant instead of poor in spirit?

Where has pride drowned out humility?

What do I hunger for most right now...God or comfort?

Who do I need to show mercy to?

Where is my heart divided?

Charge

This week, don't try to "apply all nine beatitudes."

Start with surrender. Ask the Holy Spirit one question every morning:

"Which BEattitude are You forming in me today?"

Then respond in obedience.

Beatitude living is not behavior modification.

It is Spirit transformation. It is navigating life in the inverse...upside down Kingdom!

And the Spirit guides those who are looking for change...He helps reshape your thinking and develop an attitude that abides!

Preview of next week Salt & Light

Here's what we must understand. The Beatitudes shape who we are. Next week, Jesus shifts to how we live in the world.

| World's Values | God's Kingdom Values | Beatitude | Scripture |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Strength wins | Surrender wins | Poor in spirit | Matthew 5:3; James 4:6 |
| Power secures | Humility elevates | The meek | Matthew 5:5; 1 Peter 5:6 |
| Self-promotion builds identity | Dependence builds identity | Hunger for righteousness | Matthew 5:6; Psalm 42:1 |
| Comfort defines success | Brokenness becomes blessing | Those who mourn | Matthew 5:4; 2 Corinthians 7:10 |
| Revenge proves justice | Mercy reflects God | The merciful | Matthew 5:7; Matthew 6:14 |
| Image matters most | Heart purity matters most | Pure in heart | Matthew 5:8; Psalm 24:3–4 |
| Avoid conflict | Make peace | Peacemakers | Matthew 5:9; Romans 12:18 |
| Blend in to survive | Stand firm in righteousness | Persecuted for righteousness | Matthew 5:10; 2 Timothy 3:12 |
| Seek approval | Remain faithful to Jesus | Rejected for His name | Matthew 5:11–12; Acts 5:41 |