

The Way of a Blessed Life

Being a follower of Jesus is not about what you do, but who you are. When you learn to focus on who you are, what you do will take care of itself. This is what Jesus wants to teach us. Jesus wants to **redefine** what it means to have a relationship with God. Jesus wants us to focus on the condition of our hearts to transform our world. In this sermon, Jesus is going to address all the hot button ethical issues of his day, but he understands if we do not get our hearts right, telling people how to behave is a waste of time.

Luke 15:11-32, The Prodigal Son

- **Both sons are looking for a blessed life.**
- **The father wants to bless them both.**
- **Only one son is blessed.**
- **Which son are you?**

Maybe you identify with the prodigal. Maybe you identify with the older son. Either way, God would say, stop running or stop striving, come home, and let me bless you!

Matthew 4:17, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

Matthew 5:1-3, “One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him, ² and he began to teach them. ³ “God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.”

The blessing is a deep sense of wellbeing, satisfaction, and contentment that is not dependent on my circumstances. The blessing comes from having a thriving relationship with Jesus, which greatly enhances our relationships with each other.

Without Jesus, we are spiritually poor. Jesus is inviting us to come home and be blessed. In Jesus, all that the father has is ours. In Jesus, we are rich!

Step One: Humility

Romans 3:10-12, “No one is righteous, no not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one.”

Isaiah 64:6, “We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags.”

If we do not understand the depth of our depravity, we cannot appreciate the beauty of the gospel; we cannot appreciate what God has done through his son Jesus.

We have to humble ourselves!

Luke 15:17, “When he finally came to his senses.” When he finally humbled himself and returned to His father. Humility is the first step to experience a blessed life.

1 Peter 5:6, “Humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.”

When we humble ourselves before God, the defenses around our hearts begin to crumble, and God starts the process of transformation from the inside out. What Jesus understood and I hope we understand is my behavior is a reflection of my heart.

Mark 7:21-23 (NIV), “It is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

Prayer of Humility: Father, today we confess, we have sinned against you. Often our sin has hurt those we love and you love. Today we humble ourselves. We bow before you. We give up our attempts to convince you or others that we are more righteous than we really are. Today we receive by faith the love, grace, and mercy you offer that we so desperately need. Father, we confess that we cannot change ourselves, and we trust your Spirit to change our hearts and produce your life in us. We renounce our pride and receive the humility of Christ. We need you and cannot be blessed without you. Fill our hearts with gratitude for all you have done for us!