



MESSAGE NOTES

PRACTICAL TEACHING FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

Title: **THE BLESSED LIFE**
Series: **Upside Down Kingdom**
Text: **Matthew 5:1-12**
Speaker: **Kevin T. Hardy** Date: **February 8, 2026**

EVERYBODY WANTS THE BLESSED LIFE!

WHAT “BLESSED” MEANS: MORE THAN _____ (5:3–12)

BLESSED - God’s favor rests on you, even if your _____ don’t look favored yet.

And here’s the critical kingdom tension:

- Most beatitudes promise the future: “**they will be...**”
- But the first and the eighth declare the present: “**theirs is the kingdom of heaven**” (5:3, 5:10)

This whole way of life is life under God’s _____ now.

So the Beatitudes are not a virtue checklist. They are a Kingdom _____.

THE SCENE:

*From that time on Jesus began to preach, “**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.**” (Mt 4:17).*

*Now when Jesus saw the crowds, **he went up on a mountainside** and **sat down**. His **disciples came to him**, 2 and he began **to teach them**. (Mt 5:1–2).*

1. GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO LIVE FROM _____, NOT SELF-RELIANCE (5:3–5)

Jesus opens His sermon by blessing people the world overlooks—those who know they need God. The upside-down kingdom doesn’t start with strength or success; it starts with surrender.

A. Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit — Those Who Know They _____ God

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (5:3)

B. Blessed Are Those Who Mourn — Those Who Feel the _____ of a Broken World

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” (5:4)

C. Blessed Are the Meek - Those Who Trust God Instead of Grasping for _____

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” (5:5)

Jesus is echoing.

*“A little while, and **the wicked will be no more**; though you look for them, they will not be found. But **the meek will inherit the land** and enjoy great peace.” (Psalm 37:10-11)*

If you're tired of fighting for your place, Jesus says: **“The kingdom has _____ way.”**

2. GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO LONG FOR WHAT IS _____ (5:6–8)

A. Hungering and Thirsting for Righteousness—Wanting God's _____

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” (5:6)

B. The Merciful — Living Out the _____ We Have Received

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” (5:7)

C. The Pure in Heart — A Life _____ Before God

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” (5:8)

*Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?
4 The one who has clean hands and a pure heart
(Ps 24:3–4).*

3. GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO LIVE AS AGENTS OF _____ (5:9–12)

A. Peacemakers — Reflecting the Heart of Our _____

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (5:9)

B. The Persecuted for Righteousness — _____ That May Bring Resistance

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness...” (5:10)

“Blessed are you when people insult you... because of me...” (5:11)

The **upside-down kingdom** begins when we **stop striving for success** and start surrendering to grace. Because the blessed life is not **“the pursuit of happiness.”** It is life **under God's reign**—now—through Jesus, God with us.