



## 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.