

5:1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons^[a] of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Head (Knowing God's Truth)

Seeing the crowds he sat down (5:1)

Who is the "crowd"

His disciples came to him.

Who are the disciples?

The primary message of Jesus FOR the crowd.

What was it?

BLESSED

Def: Happy. Fortunate.

To make life better.

The Nine

Poor in spirit

Mourn

Meek

Hunger and thirst for righteousness

Merciful

Pure in heart

Peacemakers

Persecuted for righteousness sake

When others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil

Heart (Pursing Your Heart)

1 If you are hurting, feel like a loser, feel unimportant or insignificant how does it feel to have someone pay attention to you? How does it feel to have someone promise you blessing? How does it feel to have someone say the kingdom is for YOU!??

2 These verses could almost be read as a description of Jesus ministry and life. Who does the end of Matthew challenge and encourage you?

3 Respond to this idea:

These are NOT formulas, not something to attain. We do not try to be poor. We do not try to be sad all the time. We do not try get beat up.

These are something he proclaims. These are a description of the types of people that Jesus brings the kingdom of God to.

4 Challenge: Do you want to be like this?

Hands (Determining Action)

1 How can you use the beatitudes to encourage a struggling friend?

2 How does these verse affect your prayer life?