

THE FIRST SERMON



YES&NO

1. If I were asked to preach a sermon, I would be overjoyed!
2. God blesses you when you act like He wants you to.
3. Jesus made people laugh quite often when he preached.
4. I can list at least a dozen funny things that Jesus said while preaching.
5. I've always thought of the Beatitudes as quite the humorous sermon intro.

01

DIG DEEP

READ: Matthew 5:3-12 (NIV)

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 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.

∞ When you read the word blessed, what do you think Jesus was trying to say?

» The common use of blessed (μακάριοι - makáριοι) in the Greek literature of Jesus' day.

‡ How does an understanding of this construct change how you interpret the Beatitudes?

THE BEATITUDES: *The Behavior & The Reward*

∞ **Poor in spirit** (πτωχοί- ptochoí) - verb form πτώσσειν, to crouch or cringe/utter destitution/absolute need.

» **Theirs is the kingdom of heaven** - [*present tense*]

∞ **Those who mourn** (πενθοῦντες- penthountes) - grief manifested; too deep for concealment.

» **They will be comforted** - to make happy again, to re-congratulate.

∞ **The meek** (πραεῖς- praeís) - "those who don't trust in their own power."

» **They will inherit the earth** - inheritance means that someone has died.

NOTES

