

THE CHOSEN 2
The Sermon On The Mount
What It Means To Be Blessed
Matthew 5:1-12
March 5, 2023
Pastor Mike Popovich

What would you expect in the arrival of the Messiah if you were a first century Jew living in Israel?

Jesus teaches in the Sermon on the Mount what living in this Kingdom will be like.

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.

He said:

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.

Matthew 5:1-12 NIV

What does the word 'blessed' really mean?

God's favor is better than happiness.

Who gets to experience God's favor?

Only those who follow Jesus.

Once we belong to Him, we're not only given a new identity we're ushered into a new reality.

To do that and think and act that way we have to address some inner hang-ups.

Hang-up 1: What We Care About

To experience all of God's blessings He has for us we have to value God's favor more than we value earthly things.

God's presence and our future home with Him in heaven are the only things our hearts fundamentally need.

Hang-up 2: Works vs. Grace

We are saved by grace; it is a gift and nothing we earned. We accept it then most of us return to a works-based setting thinking we have to earn the life we have been given.

When we have Jesus we have His blessings also.

Why after receiving Him would we tell Him no thanks?

Hang-up 3: Blessed, Not Easy

The challenge is recognize God's favor in our lives in spite of our difficult circumstances, because having His favor doesn't mean our lives will be easy.

We Live In The In-Between

Jesus did not come to mourn for Lazarus. So why did Jesus weep?

Jesus weeps with them because they do not know the details of what He knows and they must live in-between the circumstances of this life and when all believers go to heaven.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus describes:

The truth about what matters

Who we are when we belong to Him

What we have when we belong to Him

Where we are going because we belong to Him

What it means to be blessed in the in-between and unto eternity.

So as a believer, God's favor is upon you.