

Jesus' Teaching on the Mountain

The "Blessed Life" from God's Perspective

Lesson 9

Introduction

Wherever Jesus went, He drew huge crowds wanting to be healed and to hear His words of wisdom. They had never heard anyone like Him. Using parables, He taught about the Kingdom of God and revealed God's true nature. One of Jesus' most important teachings took place on a mountainside overlooking the Sea of Galilee. Often referred to as "The Sermon on the Mount," Jesus taught the truth of what a blessed life is from God's perspective. And, in doing so, He flipped the cultural norm, right side up.

The Beatitudes - Matthew 5:1-12

The "Sermon on the Mount" is recorded in Matthew chapters 5 - 7 and throughout the gospels of Mark, Luke and John. We will focus only on Matthew chapter 5. Keep in mind that the purpose of Jesus' teaching was to reveal the correct view of who God is and what the Kingdom of God is like.

1. To whom was Jesus directing these parables and teachings?
2. How would you define "blessing?"
3. Whom did Jesus say was blessed and why should they consider this a blessing?

Blessed are:	For theirs:

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4. How are the blessings in verses 3 and 10 different from the rest of the blessings?
5. What two reasons did Jesus give for saying they were to rejoice and be glad in this blessed life?
6. How did Jesus describe His disciples? (Matt. 5:13a and 14a)
7. How were the disciples to live out their blessed life? (Matt. 5:16)

Reflect

8. Imagine yourself sitting on that mountainside hearing these words of Jesus. How do you think that was opposite from what their (and our) culture taught was a blessed life?

Flipping Culture Right Side Up - "You have heard it said - But I say..."

9. Jesus compared His teaching to the Law as given through Moses. What did Jesus state was His relationship to the Law? (Matt. 5:17)
10. What did He say about the Law? (Matt. 5:18)

11. Read Matthew 5:19 - 20. To whom do you think Jesus was referring with His remarks?

12. What new understanding did Jesus give into God's view of the following laws:

Behavior	Matthew 5	Law of Moses	Jesus' Teaching
Murder	21 - 22		
Adultery	27 - 28		
Divorce	31 - 32		
Vows	33 - 37		
Revenge	38 - 42		
Enemies	43 - 44		

13. Jesus continually taught that His disciples were to be known by their love. Why was that so important to Jesus? (Matt. 5:45-47)

Reflect:

14. This section of Matthew ends with Jesus commanding His disciples to, "*Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*" (Matthew 5:48) What was Moses' similar command to the people of Israel? (Leviticus 19:1, 2)

- What do you think both Jesus and Moses were revealing about God's expectation of His people?

Putting Feet to the Blessed Life

15. Jesus' purpose in His use of parables, stories based upon everyday life, was so that people could understand and remember. As you reflected on these teachings of Jesus, if you like creative writing, create a parable from today's culture to reflect one the truths above.

16. This week I would also encourage you to make a list of ways that God has:

- Blessed your life today:

- Promised to bless your life in the future because of your relationship with Jesus: