

## Matthew 5: 1-9 (ESV) – The Beatitudes, part 2

**Main point:** We are blessed and filled when we know our need for God and act rightly toward others.



Open with a short prayer, inviting God to teach us.

**Background:** This is probably Jesus' most famous sermon or teaching, something many of us may know quite well from Sunday School lessons. Earlier we looked at "blessed are the poor in spirit."

### Focus of the study:

<sup>1</sup> Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup> And Jesus opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

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

<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

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

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

### Questions:

1. *Earlier/last week we looked at "blessed are the poor in spirit." To review: How does your spirit feel when it's feeling poor?*
  - a) Your spirit is needy, needs something; you feel empty, tired, weak inside
2. *What does Jesus say that the poor in spirit receive?*
  - a) "Theirs is the kingdom of heaven"
3. *What do you think is in God's kingdom, the kingdom of heaven?*
  - a) Peace, joy, light—in fact, EVERY good thing
  - b) *Even more important, Who is the King of the kingdom of heaven?*
    - i. God!
4. *So if your heart is poor, and therefore kingdom of heaven is yours, who is with you? GOD.*
5. *What does it feel like when you know God is with you? Blessed!*
  - a) We can be sure that even when we are feeling low, we are actually very close to God. When we know that we cannot provide for ourselves, we look to God to provide for us. We are close to God, and God is close to us, in those times.
6. *OK, that's just the very first sentence of Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount ☺ What does Jesus say next, after "blessed are the poor in spirit"?*
  - a) v. 4: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."
  - b) *I wonder what it means to mourn?*
    - i. You've lost something or someone; grieving; sad, despondent, overwhelmed
    - ii. Could even be mourning a failure or a weakness
7. *Who would this apply to? Has anyone here ever mourned or felt sad? [of course, everyone] In your own experience, what helps you in times of sadness?*
  - a) Knowing you're not alone

- b) Comforting touch, understanding/listening from others, peaceful music and words, reassurances
- i. *When you are mourning, is your spirit feeling strong and full or weak and empty? – Not strong; you are, again, “poor in spirit”—and Jesus says at those times we are actually close to God.*
8. *If you are mourning, God is with you; and what does Jesus say will happen to those who mourn?*  
a) “They shall be comforted.”
9. *How has God comforted you in your life? What does God use in your life to bring you comfort? [ask for stories; parents, children, friends ...]*
10. *Next, v. 5: “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” What does it mean to be meek?*  
a) Humble, lowly, not powerful  
b) Gentle, unassuming, waiting, patient  
c) Trusting that God will work for you, knowing you can’t “do it all”
11. *What does Jesus say happens to the meek?*  
a) “They shall inherit the earth.” *What is in/on/part of the earth?*  
i. Everything!  
b) *And who created the Earth?*  
i. God  
c) *And whose children are we?*  
i. God’s!  
ii. *So what do we, as children, inherit from our Heavenly Father?*  
All good things! As St. Paul wrote, “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not freely give us all things with him?” (Romans 8:32)
12. *There are similarities in these first three beatitudes—poor in spirit, mourning, meekness: a sense of emptiness and even grief. It’s interesting that Jesus says God is very close to us in those times!*
13. *Then Jesus says: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”*  
a) *What does it feel like when you’re hungry or thirsty?*  
i. You’ve got to have food or drink NOW. You want and need it to live.
14. *We’re supposed to be hungry and thirsty for righteousness. I wonder what you think “righteousness” means?*  
a) Living rightly, living according to God’s truths
15. *What do Jesus and the rest of the Beatitudes tell us about righteousness, living rightly? How should we act? (Read verses 7-9 aloud and then ask the question again.)*  
a) v. 7, merciful  
b) v. 8, pure in heart  
c) v. 9. peacemaker
16. *If we eat and drink these acts of righteousness—if this is how we live and act toward other people—if we DO these acts of mercy, purity, and peace—what does Jesus say is the outcome for your spirit?*  
a) Your spirit will be blessed!
16. *How can we act with mercy today? How can we act peacefully today?*

- Ask for any other prayer requests for today.
- Close in prayer, naming people and needs listed.
- End with a song, e.g., first verse of Amazing Grace

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