**2023 Post Easter Series – from the Beatitudes Matthew 5:1-13**

*Purpose – Connecting with the world’s desire for personal happiness, we can present the real God-given and sustainable happiness/blessed life present in the Kingdom of Jesus.*

**Title idea – The Pursuit of Happiness**

Beatitudes = comes from Latin beatitudo = blessed. Condition or statement of blessedness. In the Latin of the Vulgate, beatus, the word for blessed, happy, or fortunate, begins certain verses such as Psalm 1:1: "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked." Old Testament beatitudes begin with the Hebrew word asre and the New Testament beatitudes with the Greek word makarios [makavrio"]. They are used of people, not of God.

The concept of blessedness is not easily translated into English. "Happy, " "fortunate, " and "favored" have all been offered as less than completely satisfactory translations. "Happy" focuses narrowly on emotional well-being, not taking into account that within relationship to God sin is confessed ( [Psalm 32:3-5](https://www.biblestudytools.com/passage/?q=Psalms+32:3-5) ). "Fortunate" is derived from the Latin word for chance or luck and was used also for the Roman goddess who determined arbitrarily and capriciously each person's destiny. It still means a haphazard random selection, success, collective possessions and wealth, not given others. Since the poor ( [Luke 6:20](http://www.biblestudytools.com/luke/6-20.html) ), those who confess sin ( [Psalm 32:3-5](https://www.biblestudytools.com/passage/?q=Psalms+32:3-5) ), and the dead ( [Rev 14:13](http://www.biblestudytools.com/revelation/14-13.html) ) are subjects of the beatitudes, "happy" and "fortunate" seem inappropriate. Favor is the Latin word for grace; to avoid confusion "favored" should not be used. "Blessed" should be used in all cases, so that the English reader will recognize that these passages are related as beatitudes. Blessedness should not be seen as a reward for religious accomplishments, but as an act of God's grace in believers' lives. Rather than congratulating them on spiritual or moral achievements, the beatitude underscores the fact that sinners stand within a forgiving relationship made possible by Christ's atonement. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries/bakers-evangelical-dictionary/beatitudes.html>

Happiness is the great question confronting mankind. The whole world is longing for happiness and it is tragic to observe the ways in which people are seeking it. The vast majority, alas, are doing so in a away that is bound to produce misery. The sermon on the Mount says, however, that if you really want to be happy, here is the way. This a this alone is the type of person who is truly happy, who is really blessed. This is the sort of person who is to be congratulated. (Martin Lloyd Jones, 32)

Blessed – Greek “Makarios” = supremely blest; by extension, fortunate, well off:—blessed, happy(X -ier). Used in Matthew 3x more – 11: 6 “blessed is the man who does not fall away” on account of Jesus. 13:16 regarding seeing and hearing Jesus teaching in parables – “blessed are your eyes, for they see…” 16: 17 when Peter answered that Jesus was the Christ, ‘Blessed are you Peter… this was not revealed by flesh but by my Father in heaven.”

Imagine how the crowd’s attention was riveted on Jesus when he uttered his first word “Blessed”. This was a powerful word… to them it meant “divine joy and perfect happiness”. “Blessed” implied an inner satisfaction and sufficiency that did not depend on outward circumstances for happiness. This is what the Lord offers those who trust Him! (Wiersbe, Be Loyal 33)

Lessons from the Beatitudes. First, all Christians are to be like this. Read the Beatitudes, and there you have a description of what every Christian is meant to be. (Martin Lloyd Jones 33) The second principle… all Christians are meant to manifest all of these characteristics. (34) But the third is perhaps even more important. None of these descriptions refers to what we may call a natural tendency. Each one of them is wholly a disposition which is produced by grace alone and the operation of the Holy Spirit upon us. (35) Let us now consider the next principle. These descriptions…indicate clearly (perhaps more clearly than anything else in the entire realm of Scripture) the essential, utter difference between the Christian and the non-Christian. (36) The glory of the gospel is that when the Church is absolutely different from the world, she invariably attracts it (the world). It is then that the world is made to listen to her message, though it may hate it at first. That is how revival comes. Our ambition should be to be like Christ, the more like Him the better, and the more like Him we become, the more we shall be unlike everybody who is not a Christian. (37) Perhaps I can put it all in this final concept. The truth is that the Christian and the non-Christian belong to two entirely different realms. Our Lord starts and ends with “for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” because it is His way of saying that the first thing you have to realize about yourself is that you belong to a different kingdom. He says to them, “You must not think of this kingdom primarily as anything earthly. It is a kingdom in the heavens, which certainly going to affect the earth in may different ways, but is essentially spiritually. (Martin Lloyd Jones, 39)

The Sermon on the Mount is sometimes thought of as Jesus’ “Declaration of the Kingdom.” The American Revolutionaries had their *Declaration of Independence*. Karl Marx had his *Communist Manifesto*. With this message, Jesus declared what His Kingdom is all about. It presents a radically different agenda than what the nation of Israel expected from the Messiah. It does not present the political or material blessings of the Messiah’s reign. Instead, it expresses the spiritual implications of the rule of Jesus in our lives. This great message tells us how we will live when Jesus is our Lord…it lays out for the disciple and the potential disciple how regarding Jesus as King translates into ethics and daily living. (ENDURING WORD)

(Given) Dispositions of people in the Kingdom. (Developed) Character qualities of people in the Kingdom. These are statements about the reality of the Kingdom and the nature of the people of the Kingdom. These are pictures of the character of King Jesus himself. All true subjects of the King are given these and encouraged to develop these.

The Pursuit of Happiness

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|  | **Anchor Verse** | **Biblical Illustration?** |
| April 9Bobby #1 | **Intro to the beatitudes** | Matthew 7:24-27. 5:13-16. 4:17 |
| April 16Chad #2 | **3**“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. | Gentile woman coming to Jesus for her daughter and glad even for crumbs of His power. Psalm 51 – Broken and contrite heartJesus healing the man at the poolActs 4 Samaritan womanMatthew 8 – Father asking Jesus to heal his son |
| April 23Jason #3 | **4**“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. | Jesus cried over JerusalemJohn 11- Mary and Martha mourning the loss of Lazarus2 Corinthians comfort others |
| April 30Wes #4 | **5**“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. | Psalm 37 – Inherit the earthJesus emptied Himself Philippians 2John 3 – he must increase |
| May 7Isaac #5 | **6**“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. | Isaiah 55 – Come all you who thirst… Psalm 42 – As the deer pants for streams of water so my soul longs for You. Matthew 6 – seek first the kingdom, all of these things will be added |
| May 14Mothers DayEric #6 | **7**“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. | Joseph – Genesis 50Jesus - Father forgive themJohn 8 – let him without sin throw the first stoneMatthew 18 - forgave the debt2 Samuel 9 – David looking to show kindness  |
| May 21Asa #7 | **8**“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. | Alabaster jar in John 12Rich young rulerRich Mullins One ThingPsalm 119:36-37; Matt 6:22-23 |
| May 28Galen #8 | **9**“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5&version=ESV#fen-ESV-23244a)] of God. | Jesus in garden healing the ear of temple servant Making peace is different than keeping peaceActs 7 - Stephen being stonedIntercession1 Peter 3 – gentleness and respectPhilemon Abigail  |
| June 4Luke #9 | **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. | Connect to the previous weeks1 Peter 4 – suffer for doing goodDisciples in Acts 4-5 |

The Kingdom of Heaven --> Realm of Jesus rule

The Place of Blessedness

Fully Satisfied

Divine Joy

Happiness

Already Not yet

Jesus brought it Jesus promises more to come

Exegetical unpacking of each beatitude (image of God displayed in Jesus?

What if we start with the end – building your life on the rock

Intro message

And he opened his mouth and taught – Jesus spoke the kingdom of God

Ben Sirach’s list of blessedness that would have been known around the time of Jesus:

**“**[**7**](https://www.biblestudytools.com/nrsa/ben-sira/25-7.html) I can think of nine whom I would call blessed, and a tenth my tongue proclaims: a man who can rejoice in his children; a man who lives to see the downfall of his foes.

[**8**](https://www.biblestudytools.com/nrsa/ben-sira/25-8.html) Happy the man who lives with a sensible wife, and the one who does not plow with ox and ass together. Happy is the one who does not sin with the tongue, and the one who has not served an inferior.

[**9**](https://www.biblestudytools.com/nrsa/ben-sira/25-9.html) Happy is the one who finds a friend, and the one who speaks to attentive listeners.

[**10**](https://www.biblestudytools.com/nrsa/ben-sira/25-10.html) How great is the one who finds wisdom! But none is superior to the one who fears the Lord.

[**11**](https://www.biblestudytools.com/nrsa/ben-sira/25-11.html) Fear of the Lord surpasses everything; to whom can we compare the one who has it?”

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/nrsa/ben-sira/25.html>