



S3 SUMMER ENCORE

How's Your Heart?

Talk About It

Let's be honest- do you feel BLESSED when you're at the end of your rope?
How about when you've lost what is most dear to you?
When your commitment to God provokes persecution?
What do YOU think BLESSED really means? Let's Find Out!



LEARN · LIVE · LEAD

Learn

Read the Eight Beatitudes of Jesus

Jesus preached eight "Beatitudes" ("Blessed are" sayings) where He calls us to live a humble, loving, and care-giving life, a life that doesn't seek glory, but one that yearns for righteousness.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Gospel of St. Matthew 5:3-10 (NIV)

Did you know these are some of the most familiar teachings of Jesus? Living by these teachings yields great rewards in the Kingdom of Heaven. We've been talking about sharing God's light and living against the current the last few weeks. Let's break down the Beatitudes and see how our lives line up with God's instruction.

Read Matthew 5:1-10 (the Message)

5¹⁻² When Jesus saw His ministry drawing huge crowds, He climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to Him, the committed, climbed with Him. Arriving at a quiet place, He sat down and taught His climbing companions. This is what He said:

³ “You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

⁴ “You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

⁵ “You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.

⁶ “You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.

⁷ “You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.

⁸ “You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

⁹ “You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.

¹⁰ “You’re blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God’s kingdom.

Live

Discussion Questions:

1. Does our society today live by the Beatitudes? Contrast our culture with the standard Jesus teaches.
2. Look at the rewards promised in each verse.
 - a. Take turns discussing how different God’s rewards are compared to the rewards we receive in this world.
 - b. How did Jesus Christ reflect the Beatitudes in His life on earth?
3. Are we, as modern day Christians, living up to the standards of the Beatitudes?
4. Which Beatitude most resonates with you?
5. Can we as Christian students encourage others to follow some of the same morals represented in Jesus’ moral discourse, and if so how?

Reflective Questions:

6. Am I living the way Jesus calls me to live?
7. What am I lacking in a holy and virtuous life?
8. How can I better display Jesus’ light in my life to others around me?

Lead

God’s way of living contradicts the world’s way. By giving up our own rights in order to serve others, we will one day receive everything God has in store for us.

“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 7:12 *ESV*

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the Word of Truth.” 2Timothy 2:15 *ESV*

Whoever has My Commandments and keeps them, he is who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. John 14:21 *ESV*