**KEYS TO LIVING THE BLESSED LIFE**

**Matthew 5:1-12**

**THE BIG IDEA: Living in complete submission to, and dependence on, God results in experiencing the blessings of God.**

**“THE POOR IN SPIRIT” ARE THOSE WHO ACKNOWLEDE THEIR COMPLETE DEPENDENCE ON GOD FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS**

* *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.”* (Matthew 5:3)
* **“Everybody, whether they sense it or not, is powerless without God and bankrupt and helpless and unclean and unworthy before God. But not everybody is “blessed.” -Piper**
* **When we have a proper understanding of our complete dependence on God we are blessed to enter His Kingdom at the appointed time!**

**“THOSE WHO MOURN” REFERS TO BEING BROKEN OVER OUR SIN AND THE SINS OF OTHERS**

* *“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”* (Matthew 5:4)
* **God showers us with His divine comfort when we are truly broken over sin.**

**“THE HUMBLE” ARE THOSE WHO HAVE YIELDED THEIR PERSONAL WILL TO THE WILL OF GOD**

* *“Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.”* (Matthew 5:5)
* **Humility in this verse is defined as meekness which embodies the idea of complete surrender to God’s will.**
* *“Now I, Paul, myself, appeal to you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ…”* (1 Cor. 10:1)
* **The blessing of being humble is the promise of Revelation 21-22 being fulfilled in our lives.**
* *“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. 3 Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God’s dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God Himself will be with them and will be their God.”* (Revelation 21:1-3)

**“THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS” REFERS TO A DEEP COMMITMENT TO BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS**

* *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”* (Matthew 5:6)
* **Nothing this world has to offer can satisfy the hunger for happiness we have, but god promises we will be filled (satisfied) when we hunger for righteousness.**
* *“For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”* (Romans 8:29)

**“THE MERCIFUL” ARE THOSE HELP OTHERS BEYOND THE BASIC**

* *“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”* (Matthew 5:7)
* **“How much mercy you show is almost certainly the result of how much mercy you know!” – Akin**
* **Mercy involves helping others in need AND forgiving others undeservedly.**
* **“We will never forgive anyone as much as God in Christ has forgiven us.” – Akin**
* *“And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.”* (Ephesians 4:32)

**“THE PURE IN HEART” ARE THOSE WHO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SINFULNESS OF THEIR HEART AND PURSUE RIGHTEOUSNESS**

* *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”* (Matthew 5:8)
* **Our heart condition determines our outward witness.**
* **While one can fake a “righteous appearance” before others, God looks and sees the heart.**
* *“But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or his stature because I have rejected him. Humans do not see what the Lord sees, for humans see what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart.’”* (1 Samuel 16:7)

**“THE PEACEMAKERS” ARE THOSE WHO PURSUE A KINGDOM-CENTERED PEACE IN THE CHURCH AND WORLD**

* *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.”* (Matthew 5:9)
* **Kingdom-minded Christians seek to help non-believers make peace with God through Christ, and help believers make peace with one another.**
* “Peace” is mentioned in the Bible almost 400 times. (ESV/ NASB)
* **Peace-making is not what makes you a Christian, but demonstrates that you have been changed in Jesus.**

**“THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS” REMINDS US THAT FOLLOWING JESUS FAITHFULLY RESULTS IN PERSECUTION**

* *“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs. 11 You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. 12 Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” (Matthew 5:10-12)*
* **Like Jesus, we should expect persecution IF we are living righteously for the Lord, but we should not despair because we are in good company, and God promises to reward us accordingly.**
* **God has ordained for His followers to live in complete submission and obedience to Him, becoming more like Jesus, resulting in the exponential blessings of God!**

\*\*CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION ON BACK\*\*

**Connect Group Discussion**

**Understanding:**

* What does it mean to be a “spiritual beggar?”
* What does it mean to grieve over our sin and the sins of others?
* How would you describe the humility/meekness referenced in verse 5?
* What is mercy?
* How does our heart affect our attitude, actions, and speech?
* What is “kingdom-centered” peace as the Pastor explained?

**Digging Deeper:**

* What is the result of living completely surrendered to God as evidenced by living out these Beatitudes?
* How should our understanding of being “poor in spirit” affect the way we live?
* How can we tell when we are “pure in heart?”
* How does knowing persecution will come when you live faithfully for Jesus affect you?
* How does your relationship with God and others impact your ability to live out the Beatitudes.

**Loving Outward:**

* Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
* Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
* Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?

If you are not in a Connect Group and would like to get connected to grow in your relationship with God and others, contact the church office at 225-272-3740, and we can help find a group that fits your schedule.