

Be Attitudes

Introduction:

In Matthew 5–7, Jesus took a seaside stroll with his disciples. Jesus had recently begun calling disciples, teaching in the synagogues, and healing the sick. As he and his disciples hiked around the Galilean shoreline, crowds followed. They climbed a hill on the northwestern shore overlooking the Sea of Galilee. There, they discussed topics like poverty, grief, and hunger. Two-thousand years later, this “Sermon on the Mount” is widely considered the greatest sermon ever preached.

On that hill today, an octagonal chapel called the Church of the Beatitudes welcomes around one million pilgrims annually, to sit where Jesus sat and hear what Jesus preached two thousand years ago. The sermon begins with eight “blessed are the...” statements called the eight “Beatitudes.” They remind us how we all are spiritual beggars in need of heavenly handouts. As you read through these verses, imagine yourself on that hillside. How do Jesus’ words challenge your understanding of the word “blessed?”

Read Your Bible

- Psalm 1
- Matthew 5:1-12

Apply God’s Word to Your Life:

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word “blessed?”
2. In Matthew 5:3-10, Jesus gives eight descriptions of “blessed” people. Are any of them surprising to you? If so, which ones?
3. What do you think it means to be “poor in spirit” (Matthew 5:3)?
4. Do you think you are a “meek” person? Why or why not?
5. Describe a time when you have shown mercy or been shown mercy.
6. What do you think it means to see God?
7. Do you know anyone who was persecuted for their faith? What happened?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Gracious God, we come to you as spiritual beggars in need of your mercy. We come homeless, and You share Your home with us. We come hurting, and You heal our wounds. We come humbled, and You exalt us as royals. We come hungry, and You fill us with your Spirit. Help us to follow the blessed way you have shown us through your life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.