

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 6 December 2015..... Matthew 03 .....The Preaching of John the Baptist
- 2) 13 December..... Matthew 01 ..... The Genealogy of Christ
- 3) 20 December..... Matthew 02 ..... The Magi
- 4) 27 December..... Matthew 04 ..... The Temptation of Jesus
- 5) **03 January 2016.....Matthew 05a.....The Sermon on the Mount**
- 6) 10 January..... Matthew 06..... Benevolence Giving
- 7) 17 January..... Matthew 05b..... Personal Relationships
- 8) 24 January..... Matthew 07 ..... Judging Others
- 9) 31 January..... Matthew 08..... More Miracles
- 10) 07 February..... Matthew 09-10 ..... More Miracles
- 11) 14 February..... Matthew 11..... Tough Questions
- 12) 21 February..... Matthew 12..... Time to Pick a Fight
- 13) 28 February..... Matthew 13..... More Parables

**INTRODUCTION**

- We investigate some of the Beatitudes, and we take a look at whether they are meant to be generalities, or absolutes, or more futuristic in nature
- We are BLESSED in some capacity when we are adherents to these principles. BUT...
  - ♦ How are we BLESSED? What does BLESSED mean?
  - ♦ Is everyone BLESSED the same way?
  - ♦ Are we BLESSED with tangible things such as cash or with intangible things such as good words and feelings?
  - ♦ Are we BLESSED NOW? Or LATER?
  - ♦ Are the BLESSINGS permanent or temporary?
  - ♦ Are we BLESSED from bad things or after we endure bad things?



Beatitude “Word Cloud” – The most used terms are emphasized

Blessed [#3107. μακαριος makarios; blessed, happy; occurs 49x in NT]	Blessed [#2127. ευλογεω eulogy; to speak well of, praiseworthy; occurs 44x]
<b>Blessed &lt;3107&gt;</b> ~ a tangible reward of some sort (e.g., good feelings, earthly and/or heavenly rewards)	<b>Blessed &lt;2127&gt;</b> ~ an intangible aspect (i.e., praise of good words on people or things)
Mat 5:3. <b>Blessed</b> are the poor in spirit...and throughout Mat 5 Luke 14:14 and you will be <b>blessed</b> John 20:29. <b>Blessed</b> are they who did not see, and yet believed." Gal 4:15. Where then is that sense of <b>ble</b> ssing you had? Rev 14:13. <b>Blessed</b> are the dead who die in the Lord	Luke 6:28. <b>Bless</b> those who curse you Mark 14:19. He <b>blessed</b> the food, and breaking the loaves Eph 1:3. <b>Blessed &lt;2128&gt;</b> be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has <b>blessed &lt;2127&gt;</b> us with every spiritual <b>ble</b> ssing <2129>

<b>Other Greek forms of Bless / Blessed / Blessings</b>
<b>Acts 3:25</b> 'AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIEꝰ OF THE EARTH SHALL BE <b>BLESSED</b> [1757. ευελογεω <b>eneulogeo</b> ; to confer a benefit on, occurs 2x in NT]
<b>Mark 10:16.</b> Jesus took them in His arms and began <b>BLESSING</b> them, laying His hands on them. [2721. καταελογεω <b>kateulogeo</b> ; to bless <2127> fervently]
<b>2Cor 1:15</b> ...you might twice receive a <b>BLESSING</b> [5485. χαρις charis; ~grace (130x in NT), kindness ~ a tangible gift]

Passage	Comments
Matthew 5:1-2	<b>Jesus Spoke to His Disciples These Principles</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The multitudes may have been in earshot, but the intent was for the Apostles to grasp this core doctrine and to pass on this teaching to other faithful followers</li> <li>• <b>To properly interpret the types of blessings, ALWAYS keep a heavenly focus – not an earthly focus</b></li> </ul>
5:3-12	<b>The Beatitudes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus did not come to give us a carefree life with no pain. He came to prepare us to successfully live a life filled either with turmoil and pain or a life of luxury</li> <li>• We need to position ourselves to be blessed to handle either lifestyle, though the life of luxury is more rare</li> <li>• <b>REMEMBER.</b> Those who suffer the most in this life reap the most in the next life; and those who suffer the least, reap their rewards here and now (and this is assuming we did not cause self-inflicted suffering)</li> <li>• And being Americans, we need to realize we are more blessed than we deserve. Even those making minimum wage are in the top 10% of the world's economy</li> </ul>
	<b>Position Yourself to be Blessed Now and Later</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be Humble (v3); Meek (v5); Hungry &amp; Thirsty for God (v6); Merciful (v7); Honest (v8); Peacemakers (v9)</li> </ul>
	<b>Some Blessings are Worth the Wait</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God will comfort those who mourn (v4); and God will reward those persecuted for following Him (vv10-12);</li> </ul>
5:13-16	<b>How Bright Should Our Light Shine?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv13-15. What does a salty Christian look like?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Consider this. We are salty when we are obedient.</li> <li>♦ E.g., If Christians would obey the speed limit, we would temper the madness we have on roads today. People would drive slower, safer, friendlier, and wrecks would be fewer and insurance cheaper</li> <li>♦ BUT, if we do what everyone else is doing, what good are we? We become part of the problem.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v16. Let our light so shine...for God's glory. Let's not be ashamed to do what's right, but be bold in obeying                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ When we bring God glory, we get rewarded</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS**

- The Blessings received as a result of following these principles are indeed tangible rewards. Though, some, or possibly many of these blessings may not be realized till we get to Glory, others will be a result of reaping what we sow. For example, when we sow mercy, we shall reap mercy.

**NEXT WEEK: Matthew 06.** Why should our giving, our praying, and our fasting be in secret, but other good works should be proclaimed loudly and clearly?

