

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 6 December 2015..... Matthew 03The 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]
Blessed <3107> ~ a tangible reward of some sort (e.g., good feelings, earthly and/or heavenly rewards)	Blessed <2127> ~ an intangible aspect (i.e., praise of good words on people or things)
Mat 5:3. Blessed are the poor in spirit...and throughout Mat 5 Luke 14:14 and you will be blessed John 20:29. Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed." Gal 4:15. Where then is that sense of blessing you had? Rev 14:13. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord	Luke 6:28. Bless those who curse you Mark 14:19. He blessed the food, and breaking the loaves Eph 1:3. Blessed <2128> be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed <2127> us with every spiritual blessing <2129>

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

Passage	Comments
Matthew 5:1-2	Jesus Spoke to His Disciples These Principles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • To properly interpret the types of blessings, ALWAYS keep a heavenly focus – not an earthly focus
5:3-12	The Beatitudes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • We need to position ourselves to be blessed to handle either lifestyle, though the life of luxury is more rare • REMEMBER. 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) • 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
	Position Yourself to be Blessed Now and Later <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be Humble (v3); Meek (v5); Hungry & Thirsty for God (v6); Merciful (v7); Honest (v8); Peacemakers (v9)
	Some Blessings are Worth the Wait <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God will comfort those who mourn (v4); and God will reward those persecuted for following Him (vv10-12);
5:13-16	How Bright Should Our Light Shine? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv13-15. What does a salty Christian look like? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this. We are salty when we are obedient. ♦ 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 ♦ BUT, if we do what everyone else is doing, what good are we? We become part of the problem. • 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"> ♦ When we bring God glory, we get rewarded

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?

