


Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Redefining Blessed

Sermon on Mount

 Tonight we want to challenge us to rethink what it means to be **blessed**. Jesus' words in **Matthew 5** flip everything upside down. Jesus challenges our understanding of the word "**blessed**." In our culture, we often think of blessings as material things—money, success, comfort. But in the Bible, blessing is something much deeper! What if being “blessed” isn’t about wealth, comfort, or success—but about living life in a way that brings us closer to God?

Main Idea: Jesus' idea of being “blessed” is not about worldly success but about living in step with God’s kingdom.

Key Scripture:

- **Matthew 5:1-12** – The Beatitudes
- **Psalms 1:1-3** – The one who follows God is like a tree planted by water

Lesson Breakdown:

1. Icebreaker: "Hashtag Blessed?"

Game:

- Show pictures or examples of things people today call **#blessed** (e.g., new car, vacation, good grades, winning a game).
- Have students **vote**: "Is this what Jesus meant by ‘blessed’?"
- Introduce some unexpected “blessings” (e.g., facing challenges but growing closer to God, showing kindness even when it’s hard).

 **Point:** Culture says blessing = success. Jesus says blessing = something much deeper!

2. Teaching: The Beatitudes

 Read Matthew 5:1-12

1. **Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
 - The world says strength = self-sufficiency.
 - Jesus says **real blessing** comes when we recognize our **need** for God.
 - **Question:** Why do you think God values spiritual humility?
2. **Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.**
 - We often think of blessing as happiness.
 - Jesus says **grieving with God is a blessing** because it leads to healing.
 - **Question:** Have you ever felt God's comfort in a hard time?
3. **Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.**
 - The world says power = success.
 - Jesus says **true strength** is gentleness and trust in God's justice.
 - **Question:** How does meekness take more strength than aggression?
4. **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**
 - The world chases success, pleasure, and comfort.
 - Jesus says **real satisfaction** comes from craving **God's ways**.
 - **Question:** What are you truly hungry for in life?
5. **Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.**
 - Culture says people should "get what they deserve."
 - Jesus says **blessing comes from giving grace**, just like we've received from God.
 - **Challenge:** Who in your life needs your mercy?
6. **Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.**
 - The world focuses on **outward appearance**.
 - Jesus says blessing comes from a **heart fully devoted** to Him.
 - **Question:** What distractions keep us from being "pure in heart"?
7. **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.**
 - Culture says peace = avoiding conflict.
 - Jesus says **real peace** takes action—restoring relationships and choosing love.
 - **Question:** How can we be peacemakers in our daily lives?
8. **Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
 - The world says comfort = blessing.
 - Jesus says **standing for what's right** is worth the struggle.
 - **Question:** Have you ever faced rejection for following Jesus?

👉 **Key Idea:** Jesus redefines blessing—it's not about having an easy life, but about living in a way that draws us closer to God.

3. Small Group Challenge: “Upside-Down Blessings”

- Have students pick one Beatitude. (e.g., "Blessed are the peacemakers").
- In groups, come up with a **real-life example** of someone who lives it out.
- Rewrite it in modern terms (e.g., “Blessed are those who stand up for others, even when it’s hard”). (e.g., "Blessed are those who choose kindness, even when others are rude").

👉 **Challenge Question:** What would it look like for you to live out one of these blessings this week?

4. Application: Living the Blessed Life

Ask:

- How can we shift our mindset from "blessing = easy life" to "blessing = walking with God"?
- What's one way you can live **blessed** Jesus' way this week?

Challenge:

Pick **one Beatitude** to focus on this week—whether it's showing mercy, seeking peace, or trusting God in a tough moment.

Closing Prayer:

Ask God to help us see **blessing the way He does**—not just in what we get, but in how we live for Him.

🔥 **Final Thought:**

True blessing isn't about what we own—it's about who we are becoming in Christ. Let's live as people who are truly **#blessed** in God's eyes!