

“The Beatitudes”
Matthew 5:1-12
Wednesday, August 6, 2025
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The Book of Matthew is a historical narrative.

Matthew: Written to the Jews. Jesus is their Messiah

Mark: Written to the Romans. Jesus, the Servant.

Luke: Written to the Greeks. Jesus, the perfect Son of Man.

John: Written to the World. Jesus, the eternal Son of God.

Context of Our Passage:

I. Ch. 1:1–4:11 Presentation of the King

1. Matthew 1:1-17: Credentials of the King. Genealogy from Abraham includes His Davidic lineage.

2. Matthew 1:18-25: Divinity of the King. Virgin birth. Jesus is both fully human and fully divine. **Isaiah 7:14**

3. Matthew 2:1-12: The Wise Seek Jesus. Powerful Gentiles (magi) from Persia seeking the One born King of the Jews.

4. Matthew 2:13-23: Called Out of Egypt. King Herod attempted to kill Jesus when He was a child. God warned Joseph to flee with his family to Egypt.

5. Matthew 3:1-17: A Voice in the Wilderness. John the Baptist came preaching, **“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”** John’s baptism was in water (repentance). Jesus’s baptism is in the Holy Spirit (new life).

Jesus baptized by John. Jesus did not need to repent of sin; He is the sinless Son of God. Jesus identifies with sinful humanity. He paid the penalty for our sins by dying on the cross.

6. Matthew 4:1-11: The Sinless Redeemer. Under intense satanic examination and in physical extremity, Jesus overcomes temptations common to all mankind without sinning.

II. Ch. 4:12–7:29 Proclamation of the King

1. Matthew 4:12-17: A Great Light. Jesus begins His public ministry by preaching repentance to both Jews and Gentiles in preparation for His coming kingdom. **Isaiah 9:2**

2. Matthew 4:18-25: Jesus’ First Disciples. “Follow Me” 13 times in the Gospels. Jesus calls to a deeper life with Him.

Discipleship means:

Obedience. Faithfulness is to be a chief characteristic (**Luke 6:46**).

Repentance. Christians confess their sin and turn from it (**1 John 1:9**).

Submission. Submit to God and His Word (sub “under”- mitto “to put” or “place”) to be under the authority of another (**Matthew 11:28-30**).

Trust. It is impossible to follow Christ without trusting Him (**Isaiah 26:4**).

Perseverance. Discipleship is a lifetime commitment (**James 26:4**).

3. Matthew 5:1–7:29: Sermon on the Mount. Jesus explains true, spiritual righteousness. This is not “How to Be a Christian,” but the “Picture of a Genuine Disciple.”

Thought of Our Passage: “Disciples deny themselves, put to death their sinful nature, and yield to the Holy Spirit, displaying Christ’s blessed characteristics.”

Passage Outline:

1. VV. 1-2: The Disciple

2. VV. 3-6: Four Blessed Inward Qualities

3. VV. 7-12: Four Blessed Outward Qualities

Key: Living the blessed life begins with the death of the self-will and acceptance of the Father’s will.

1. VV. 1-2: The Disciple

Jesus had already been preaching throughout Galilee. **Matthew 4:12-25.** During that mission, Jesus healed several people. **John 4:46–54, Matthew 8:14–17** When people learned of His healing power, large crowds sought Him.

Mountain: a hillside near Capernaum. A natural acoustic amphitheater.

His disciples came to Him. Disciple: “a learner.” First use in the New Testament. Disciple seeks transformation to become like Jesus. **Luke 6:40**

The cost of discipleship: death to the old sin-life, death to self-will, death to sinful pleasures. **Luke 9:23-24, Matthew 10:38-39**

Cross-bearing defines a disciple: **Luke 14:27**

Essentials of a True Disciple: **Luke 9:23-24**

One must “deny himself.” We die to our self-centered life; God is the center.

One must “take up his cross daily.” The cross is a symbol of death. The flesh cannot be reformed; it must be put to death.

One must “follow Jesus.” Obedience to Christ. His disciples left their former lives and devoted themselves fully to Him.

Self-denial and cross-bearing: Philippians 2:3-8, 1 Corinthians 11:27, Philippians 3:7-11. See also: **Romans 12:1-2, Galatians 2:20.**

Dead to Sin and Alive to Christ: Romans 6.

Know we are dead to sin through Christ. Romans 6:6

Consider ourselves alive to God in Christ Jesus. Romans 6:11

Yield ourselves to God's Holy Spirit. Romans 6:13

If we die to our old fallen natures, we will live out the new life in Christ.

"He [Jesus] began to teach" the disciples (those doers of the Word).

2. VV. 3-6: Four Blessed Inward Qualities

Jesus begins with the Beatitudes ("be-attitudes"). He doesn't teach first "do-attitudes," or rules to follow. Jesus teaches first how we are, then what we will do. A disciple is transformed by God's Spirit inside out.

"Blessed" (favored and approved by God). God's way of living contradicts the world's way. A blessed person experiences hope and joy, independent of circumstances or trials.

First inward quality of the disciple: Sense of Spiritual Inadequacy

"Poor in spirit." The disciple is conscious of moral bankruptcy before God. Their eyes are open to their true spiritual estate: we are sinners in desperate need of God's grace. They are humble.

Second inward quality of the disciple: Repentant

"Those who mourn." "How happy are the unhappy!" "Mourn" grief of the deepest kind, like mourning over the death of a loved one. The disciple mourns over sin and failure. God will comfort the grieving heart. **Isaiah 61:1-2, Revelation 7:17**

Third inward quality of the disciple: Humility

"Gentle" (humble or meek). Disciples no longer strive against God. They submit to God's will. Meekness is not weakness. Great strength under control. **"Inherit"** (To receive rights or real property in perpetuity). Disciples will possess the kingdom. **Psalms 37:10-11, Revelation 21-22**

Fourth inward quality of the disciple: Aspire for Righteousness

"Hunger and thirst" intense longing. The disciple seeks God. **Psalms 42:1-2** Righteousness is foreign to fallen mankind. Satisfaction is in God's Spirit.

The disciple hungers and thirsts for righteousness in at least three ways:

1. The desire to be right: forgiven and accepted by God.
2. The desire to do right: God commands, reflecting His righteousness.
3. The desire to see right: God's will accomplished in the world.

3. VV. 7-12: Four Blessed Outward Qualities

The first active quality of the disciple: Compassionate

"Mercy" (forbearance shown to an offender.) As we received mercy from God, we must extend mercy to others. It is undeserved. Mercy does not overlook sin; it endeavors to repair its damages. Mercy encourages the fallen one.

The second active quality of the disciple: Pure in Heart

"Pure" (unadulterated, free from alloy, sincere, and without hypocrisy). Inward purity, in contrast to outward respectability. Morally pure, honest, and sincere. The disciple has eyes of faith that behold God now.

The pure in heart are morally pure, honest, and sincere. They are genuine in their actions. They have integrity with a single-minded commitment to God.

The third active quality of the disciple: Conciliatory

"Peacemaker." This is not a pacifist but a reconciler. Often, peace can be made only at a cost to the peacemaker himself. **Colossians 1:20**

The fourth active quality of the disciple: Loyalty to Christ

"Persecuted" (to oppress and harass). Those displaying these blessed characteristics will be persecuted. The world is under Satan's control. When persecuted, rejoice! **1 Peter 3:14-15**

Summary:

Discipleships turn from sin to embrace the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. God is on the throne of your life. Sanctification is a life-long journey from spiritual poverty to the riches of Christ-likeness.

Application: Luke 9:23-23

1. **Know:** know you are dead to sin through Christ (**Romans 6:6**).
2. **Consider:** Consider yourself alive to God in Christ Jesus (**Romans 6:11**).
3. **Yield:** Yield yourself to God's Holy Spirit (**Romans 6:13**).
4. Serve Jesus Christ fully devoted to the Will of God (**Matthew 6:10**).