

Blessed Are Ye

A Bible-Based Study for Young Adults
Based on the Beatitudes

by Sandi Queen

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For Evan - who has the talent
because the Lord saw fit to give it

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Introduction

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus Christ included as part of His message a list of recipients of the blessings of God. As Christians, most of us have read and heard this list many times, but have never really taken the time to study what each of the beatitudes is saying.

Yes, we can see on the surface that we will be blessed if we hunger and thirst after righteousness, or are meek, etc. – but just exactly what does it *mean* to hunger and thirst after righteousness or to be meek, or to be poor in spirit? Any why are those who are poor in spirit or who mourn considered blessed?

As I studied these questions and more in my own personal devotional time, my questions, and their subsequent answers, grew into this study. I found that, the more I studied God's Word on this subject, the more I found He had to say about it. The more I looked up verses and definitions, the more I understood what it means to be *blessed*. I hope that through the course of this study, you will also grow in understanding of how you can please the Lord with your choices in life, how you can be blessed knowing that you are living in His will, and how to find true blessing in any circumstance – because your eyes are fixed on Jesus Christ, not on circumstances.

In Christ's Service,

Sandi Queen, Author
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Lesson 1: Blessed

Read Matthew 4:23 through Matthew 5:12.

During the early part of Jesus' earthly ministry, He taught the "beatitudes" mentioned in these passages.

Over and over in this section of Scripture, Jesus used the word *blessed*. This word, used in this particular context, is translated from the Greek word, *makarioi*, which means "fully satisfied."

This feeling of being fully satisfied is the type of joy that comes from having obtained the Lord's salvation, as referred to in Psalm 51:12.

Copy this verse in the space below:

Being in a state of complete or full satisfaction due to our salvation through Jesus Christ is not dependent upon our circumstances. In other words, if we are fully satisfied because we are saved and indwelt with God's Holy Spirit, even though we may be in the midst of terrible trial, our internal joy – the joy of our salvation – will remain intact, and bring us peace, no matter the circumstances that surround us.

This is the state of blessedness Jesus is speaking of in Matthew 5:1 - 12. He is not saying that the poor in spirit (verse 3) are "happy" because they are poor in spirit, but rather that, having the joy of their salvation in their hearts, they can rejoice even *though* they are poor in spirit, because they are God's children, and are assured in this verse that the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

In this study, we will take a closer look at the portion of Scripture known as "the beatitudes," and see just what God wants to teach us about each of them.

Lesson 2: The Kingdom of Heaven

Copy Matthew 5:3 in the space below:

The term, "poor in spirit," as it is used here, comes from the Greek word *ptochois*. It does not mean one who is simply downcast or depressed, who are still able to help themselves. Instead, it means someone who is poor in spirit because they fully realize their own spiritual helplessness.

One does not obtain salvation, or Heaven, simply because they are depressed. Salvation is obtained only by accepting Jesus Christ's free gift of eternal life, provided through His sacrificial death on the cross. This can only be done after we come to the point of realizing our own spiritual helplessness, which makes us "poor in spirit."

Copy Isaiah 57:15 below:

Let's dig into that verse a little deeper by looking up some of the words it contains in Noah Webster's 1828 *Dictionary of the English Language*, and defining them below. Be sure to write the entire definition of each word, unless you are told otherwise.

contrite -