

Beatitudes
What The Bible Teaches About Being Blessed

BLESSED

Text: Matthew 5:1-12

Introduction:

1. The Sermon on the Mount is the first recorded sermon of Jesus.
2. The context of this sermon emphasizes its great importance.
 - a. “*Was set*” – Jesus was teaching as a Rabbi, with authority.
 - b. “*Opened His mouth*” – to speak as the oracle of God (1 Pt. 4:11).
3. To understand what Jesus expects of us, we must understand the Beatitudes.
4. To understand the Beatitudes, we must understand the word “blessed.”

I. What Is “Blessed?”

- A. The word “beatitude” comes from the Latin word for *happy*.
 1. Some translate Jesus’ statements with the word “happy.”
 2. However, the word “happy” is not good enough.
- B. The Old Testament word translated “blessed” means “to bless or to ask for a blessing.” {*In verb form it means, “to bend the knees” (cf. Psalm 95:6).*}
- C. Usages of the term:
 1. Describing God’s nature (Psalm 104:1; etc.).
 2. Intercession between men (Psalm 129:8; etc.).
 3. Bestowing of divine favor (Gen. 12:1-3; etc.).
- D. A second OT term is an interjection which means, “Oh, the blessedness of the man.”
- E. The Greek word for “blessed” referred to those beyond care, labor and even death.
 1. Used first of the mythological gods.
 2. Came to be used of men with wealth, etc.
- F. Biblically, the word refers to those whose sufficiency comes from God and not from the circumstances of life.

II. Who Is Blessed?

- A. The Greek and Oriental idea of blessedness is materialistic.
- B. The Islamic idea of blessedness is mystical.
 1. Called the “unveiling” (*kashif*), this is an emotional experience during which one’s perception is opened to things normally unseen.
 2. This experience includes hallucinations of both sight and sound which results in the death of self and union with Allah.
 3. This union with Allah is an absolute duty of every Muslim.
 4. It is ultimately achieved in actual death from which the Muslim must not shrink for it is the journey to the beloved.
- C. The world’s idea of blessedness is good fortune or luck.
- D. Many think that blessedness is a reward for good behavior.
- E. Jesus’ teaching concerning blessedness is far different from all others’.
 1. One whose sins are forgiven (Rom. 4:6-8).

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2. One who is in the Lord's kingdom (Rev. 14:13; Matt. 5:3ff).
3. One who empties himself (Matt. 5:3ff).
4. One who lives the Christian life (Lk. 16:19ff; Rev. 22:11-12).
5. Consider the Sermon on the Mount:
 - a. 5:3 – Rich or poor, still blessed.
 - b. 5:4 – Happy or sad, still blessed.
 - c. 5:5 – In sickness or in health, still blessed.
 - d. 5:6 – In abundance or in need, still blessed.
 - e. 5:7 – Ignored or acknowledged, still blessed.
 - f. 5:8 – Alone or with a multitude, still blessed.
 - g. 5:9 – Uplifted or downtrodden, still blessed.
 - h. 5:10-11 – Pressured, persecuted or killed, still blessed.

Conclusion: *Are you truly blessed? Does your happiness depend on circumstances or upon God?*