

Beatitudes
What The Bible Teaches About Being Blessed

BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO HEARS THE DOCTRINE OF JESUS

Text: Matthew 13:16

Introduction:

1. The biblically blessed are those who depend upon God.
2. They inherit the promise made to Abraham by submission to God.
3. The Beatitudes found in the Sermon on the Mount describe the character traits necessary to transition from the Law of Moses to the Gospel of Christ.
4. Throughout the New Testament, other beatitudes describe the heart of one who is a faithful member of the Lord's kingdom – his church.
5. These blessed attitudes will enable one to make it to the eternal kingdom of God in Heaven.

I. The Purpose of Parables (13:10-17)

- A. After giving the Parable of the Sower, Jesus' disciples asked Him why He used this method of teaching.
- B. Jesus explained four important truths about parables.
- C. The purpose of parables was to **reveal**.
 1. They were to make things known (vs. 11).
 2. They were to enable others to see and hear the truth (vs. 16-17).
- D. The purpose of parables was to **conceal**.
 1. Those with hardened hearts would not understand (vs. 13-15).
 2. Some would understand but deny the truth (Matthew 21:45).
- E. The purpose of parables was to **fulfill**.
 1. By speaking in parables, Jesus fulfilled prophecy (vs. 34-35; cf. Psalm 78:2).
 2. This was evidence of His messiahship though rejected by many.
- F. The purpose of parables was to **make real**.
 1. Parables are an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.
 2. They helped to make clear spiritual concepts.

II. The Purity of Perception (13:16)

- A. The blessed man is the one who has eyes that see and ears that hear.
- B. This requires one to have a heart that is honest and good (Luke 8:15).
 1. Honest – “Beautiful, excellent, good, well adapted, virtuous”
 2. Good – “Of good nature, useful, distinguished, upright, honorable”
- C. This requires one to have a willingness to hear and understand (vs. 23).
- D. This requires one to bear fruit – by learning, growing, and teaching.

III. The Power of Persuasion (13:1-9, 18-23)

- A. The Parable of the Sower teaches the kind of heart needed to be one of God's blessed:
 1. One that is not hardened against the truth
 2. One that is not shallow but will endure hardship and persecution

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- 3. One that is not worldly but able to resist the temptations of life
- 4. One that is open to truth and willing to obey and practice it
- B. This parable explains why so many were unreceptive to Jesus and sought to undermine His work.
- C. It also encourages those who hear the Gospel to prepare their hearts to receive and obey it.
- D. By so doing, one can become and remain one of God's blessed.