

Beatitudes
What The Bible Teaches About Being Blessed

**BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO EATS BREAD
IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

Text: Luke 14:15

Introduction:

1. The biblically blessed are those who depend upon God.
2. They inherit the promise made to Abraham by submission to God.
3. Throughout the New Testament, beatitudes describe the heart of one who is a faithful member of the Lord's kingdom – his church.
4. These blessed attitudes will enable one to make it to the eternal kingdom of God in Heaven.

I. The Context of the Beatitude

- A. Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath day, challenging the tradition of the Pharisees (14:1-6).
- B. He followed this miracle with a parable concerning the chief seats at a dinner gathering (14:7-11).
 1. The table at a wedding feast (or some similar occasion) was usually three tables arranged in the shape of a U.
 2. The chief room (literally, the first couch or chief place) at the table was most often at the center of the table that made up the bottom of the U.
 3. The purpose of the parable was to teach that humility is necessary in order to be accepted by God.
- C. To this parable Jesus added the teaching that one should give to others without the thought of recompense in order to be one of the blessed (14:12-14).
- D. Notice the beatitude of Jesus: Blessed is the man who gives selflessly to those who cannot repay him.
 1. He cares for the poor.
 2. He cares not for acclaim from man.
 3. He cares about treasure in Heaven, valuing the spiritual over the material.

II. The Statement of the Beatitude

- A. This beatitude is unique in this series, for it is the only one not given by inspiration.
 1. The man who declared this beatitude was one of the guests at the meal in the house of the chief Pharisee.
 2. Likely, Jesus' teaching about humility and sacrificial giving did not seem like a blessing to this man.
 3. His idea of being blessed was eating bread in the kingdom of God.
 - a. Sadly, many still have the same understanding of what it means to be blessed.
 - b. There is much selfishness among the followers of Jesus.

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4. He may have been thinking of the kingdom of Heaven, for Jesus had just spoken of the resurrection.
 5. Or, he may have been thinking of the kingdom of the Messiah, for they believed that it would abound with material blessings (cf. John 6).
 6. Whatever he thought, he seemed certain that he would be one to be a part of that kingdom.
- B. Recognizing the prejudice of the speaker, one must ask: Is this truly a Beatitude?
- C. In spite of his ignorance, hypocrisy, or misunderstanding, Jesus taught a parable that explained the true beatitude.

III. The Meaning of the Beatitude

- A. In the parable of the great supper, Jesus taught that many of the Jews would not have a part in the kingdom of God (14:16-24).
1. Indeed, the Jews had been invited to enjoy the blessings of God's kingdom.
 2. However, they had numerous excuses for their disobedience of God's Word.
 - a. Heritage (John 12:42-43; 8:31-47)
 - b. Possessions (Matthew 19:22; cf. Judas)
 - c. Family (Matthew 10:32-39)
 - d. Tradition (Matthew 15:1-9; 16:21-26)
 3. Thus, they would be rejected and replaced by those who would heed the call.
- B. Their arrogance and hypocrisy were separating them from the kingdom of God.
- C. In fact, the humble – from any walk of life – would be accepted before the Jews.
- D. Thus, the Beatitude is true: Blessed is the man who eats bread in the kingdom of God.
- E. However, those who would be in the kingdom were those who humbly surrendered to the will of God, the Gospel of Jesus.
- F. Today, it is Christians who are in the kingdom of God (Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 12:18; Revelation 1:9).
1. By obeying the Gospel (Acts 8:12)
 2. Feasting in faithful fellowship (Romans 14:17)
 3. Anticipating the eternal kingdom of Heaven (1 Corinthians 15:24)
- G. In the kingdom of Jesus, one is truly blessed!