

**Beatitudes**  
**What The Bible Teaches About Being Blessed**

**BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO BELIEVES**

Text: John 20:29

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. Following His crucifixion, Jesus was raised from the grave on the first day of the week.
- B. In the garden near the sepulcher, Jesus made Himself known to Mary Magdalene (20:11-18).
  1. He warned her not to hold on to Him, for He must ascend to His Father.
  2. This was the first of many appearances that Jesus would make proving His resurrection from the dead.
- C. On the evening of the same day, Jesus appeared to His disciples (20:19-23).
- D. Because he was not present on this occasion, Thomas would not believe the others, seeking proof for himself (20:24-25).
- E. One week later, Jesus appeared again to His disciples, including Thomas (20:26).
- F. He provided evidence to Thomas that He was Jesus, risen from the dead (20:27-31).
- G. As a result of seeing this evidence, Thomas believed.

II. The Statement of the Beatitude

- A. Jesus declared: "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."
- B. To understand this beatitude, one must understand the meaning of the word "believe."
  1. Believe is synonymous with "faith" (vs. 27; Matthew 8:10, 13; Romans 4:3, 9).
  2. Both English words come from the same Greek word – *pistis* (πιστις) or *pisteuo* (πιστευω).
  3. Faith is the noun while believe is the verb.
- C. Bible faith is defined as "conviction or belief..., generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervor ...joined with it" (Thayer) [Hebrews 11:6 – *belief, trust, obedience*].
- D. Thus, believing also includes trusting and obeying!

**Beatitudes**  
**What The Bible Teaches About Being Blessed**

- III. The Meaning of the Beatitude
- A. In order to have a genuine faith, one must seek evidence for it.
    - 1. Men often refer to Thomas as “Doubting Thomas.”
    - 2. However, the Lord makes no such accusation.
    - 3. In fact, Jesus provided the evidence that Thomas sought.
  - B. Bible faith is always based upon evidence (Exodus 5:2; John 3:2; 20:30-31; cf. Judges 6:39; Isaiah 1:18; Malachi 3:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:15; 1 John 4:1).
    - 1. Empirical evidence is that which can be experienced by one or more of the five senses – hearing, sight, smell, taste, or touch.
    - 2. Factual knowledge is just as valid as empirical evidence (*prima facie*).
  - C. Thomas is an example of faith based upon empirical evidence.
    - 1. However, that evidence would be available only to a limited number of people.
    - 2. Most would not be privileged to see the risen Savior.
  - D. God seeks those who will base their faith upon factual knowledge – trust and confidence in the revealed, inspired Scripture (20:30-31).
    - 1. Consider the example of the Samaritans (John 4:39-42).
    - 2. Consider the example of Pentecost (Acts 2:37-38, 44).
  - E. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17).
  - F. The blessed man is one who will hear, believe, and obey the Gospel of Christ.