

KINGDOM LIFE

Inductive Study on Matthew 5:3-12

(STUDY 1 of 4)

Who are the blessed ones? Join us as we study Jesus's answer to that question and learn more about the character and conduct of those who belong to His Kingdom.

GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM

READ Matthew 4:17,23-5:2 (Scripture passages at the back of the study):

4:17 – What was the good news (gospel) that Jesus proclaimed?

4:23 – How did Jesus declare, in word and deed, that the kingdom of heaven had come through Him?

JESUS – THE SPIRIT-ANOINTED SAVIOUR-KING

READ Luke 4:16-21.

Here we read Jesus's declaration that He is the Saviour-King prophesied to come. The Righteous Branch upon whom the Spirit would rest, who came not to establish His Kingdom by force but by redeeming a people for His own possession - a kingdom of priests, a holy nation, saved through faith in Him, who live to glorify the One who brought them out darkness into His marvellous light.

Turn back to Matthew 4:17,23-5:2:

4:25 – Who was following Jesus?

5:1 – What did Jesus do when he saw the crowds? Who came to Him?

5:2 – What did Jesus do next?

READ Matthew 5:3-10:

- circle every reference to *blessed*.
- underline every reference to the phrase *kingdom of heaven*.

BLESSED – A repeated key word or phrase is like a key that helps us to unlock the meaning of a passage. One such key word in Matthew 5:3-12 is *blessed*. It is therefore critical to our understanding of the passage that we understand what this word means.

To help us do this let's look at what the word *blessed* means in its original language - Greek. We can do this using an online concordance like www.blueletterbible.org – see below:

BLESSED – Strong's G3107 – *makarios* – **supremely blest; by extension, fortunate, well off: blessed, happy.**

5:3-10 – Who, according to Jesus, are the supremely blest (fortunate, well off) ones? List them in the left-hand box below:

Blessed are...	Why?
v3 –	For
v4 –	For
v5 –	For
v6 –	For
v7 –	For
v8 –	For
v9 –	For
v10 –	For

Note - we look at v11-12 and how those verses are connected to v10 in the final study.

5:3-10 – Why are they blest? To answer that question read Matthew 5:3-10 again and fill in the right-hand box above with the blessing that the *well-off ones* have or will receive.

5:3 & 5:10 – Who already have (belong to) the kingdom of heaven?

5:4-9 – What else is characteristic of those who belong to the kingdom of heaven?

“The beatitudes set out the character of a Christian, a Christ-follower. These are not eight separate and distinct kinds of disciples – some who are meek, others who are merciful, still others who are called to endure persecution. They are instead eight qualities to be found in the same person – one who is meek and merciful, poor in spirit and pure in heart, mourning and hungry, peace maker and persecuted, all at the same time...the beatitudes are Jesus’ own specification of what every Christian ought to be. All these qualities are to characterize all his followers.” – *John Stott with Douglas Connelly – Reading the Sermon on the Mount with John Stott, InterVarsity Press, 2016*

POOR IN SPIRIT

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

POOR – Strong’s G4434 – *ptōchos* – *beggar; helpless, powerless to accomplish an end.*

Poor in spirit – those who realise that they are spiritually bankrupt, powerless to save themselves, but who look to Jesus for rescue and all they need to live each day for Him their King.

READ Isaiah 57:15:

57:15 – Who does the Holy One dwell with? Why?

READ Luke 18:9-14:

- circle every reference to the *pharisee* (including pronouns & synonyms).
- underline every reference to the *tax collector* (including pronouns & synonyms).

18:9 – Who was Jesus’s parable directed at?

18:10-11 – What was the Pharisee proud about?

18:12 – What was the Pharisee trusting in to be righteous before God?

18:13 – What, in contrast, did the tax collector realise he was before God? What did he cry out to God for?

18:14 – Which man went away justified (righteous before God)? Why?

READ James 4:6-7:

4:6 – Who does God give grace upon grace to?

4:7a – How do we walk humbly with our God?

4:7b – What are those submitted to God’s rule to do? What happens when we do?

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

What a privilege to belong to the Kingdom of Heaven! Beloved children of the Father, servants of Christ our King, with everything we need to live as salt and light in the world.

READ Ezekiel 36:26-27:

36:26 – What have we who belong to Christ now been given?

36:27 – What does the Spirit who dwells in us cause us to do?

READ 2 Peter 1:3-4:

1:3 – What has been granted to us through knowing Jesus who has called us to His own glory and excellence?

1:4 – Why has Christ granted to us to His precious and very great promises?

THINKING IT THROUGH

- Have you come to realise your spiritual poverty before God and placed your trust in Jesus to save you from your sins?
- Do you believe that in Christ you have everything you need to live the Christian life? What promise of God do you need to take hold of and rest in by faith to empower you to live for Jesus today?

MOURNING & COMFORT

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5:4 – What promise is given to those who mourn?

So, what kind of mourning is being referred to here? In context it would appear to be sorrow over sin. This is not to deny that there is no comfort in God when are bereaved but of the comfort we enjoy now of sins forgiven and no condemnation in Christ, and the future comfort we will receive at Christ's return when we live with Him in His Kingdom free from mourning of any kind forever. What a glorious day!

READ 2 Corinthians 7:10:

REPENT – Strong's G3340 – *metanoēō* – to change one's mind, to feel sorry that you have sinned against God and offended Him.

7:10 – What two kinds of grief over sin are contrasted here?

What does each kind of grief produce and lead to?

Which kind of grief results in a turning from sin and seeking after God and His righteousness?

READ 1 John 1:9:

1:9 – What comfort is there when we confess our sins to God?

READ Romans 7:21-8:4:

Note – Paul uses the word *law* in these verses to refer to different things – (1) God's law / (2) General Principle / (3) Power

7:21 – What law (general principle) did Paul discover when seeking to do what was right?

7:22 – Whose law did Paul delight in from the heart?

7:23 – What law (power) did Paul still see at work in him that grieved him?

7:24 – What did Paul cry out as he lamented his failures to do right?

Can you relate to Paul's cry?

7:25a – Who does Paul say his Deliverer is?

7:25b – How does Paul sum up his battle against sin as a believer?

8:1 – What is true now (and forever) for those who are in Christ Jesus?

8:2 – What law (power) has the Spirit set us free in Christ from?

How do these truths *comfort* and *strengthen* us in our ongoing battle with sin?

8:3 – What has God done so we could be justified (no longer condemned) in His sight?

8:4 – Why did God deliver us in Christ from condemnation?

What then is the evidence in our lives that we have been justified and living as those whose sins have been forgiven?

“no sin can be crucified either in heart or life unless it first be pardoned in conscience...If it be not mortified in its guilt, it cannot be subdued in its power.” – William Romaine.

THINKING IT THROUGH

- What sins in your life grieve you? What do you need to repent of?
- Take time now or later to read these verses and comfort your heart with the truth of God’s grace to you in Christ – Psalm 103:11-12, Isaiah 61:1-3, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Revelation 21:1-4

REFLECTION

The character and conduct of a Christian outlined by Jesus can seem like an impossible ideal. One for the super-spiritual not for us. Yet, as has been said by many others before the way up in God’s Kingdom is the way down. Life in God’s Kingdom beginning as we bow as spiritual paupers before God and put our trust in Christ to save us. But such poverty of spirit doesn’t end there but continues to be the dominant theme of kingdom life – living by faith in God’s promise that in Christ we have everything we need. A life that is not perfect, still dogged by sin, but lived from a heart truly seeking after God and in the assurance that nothing, absolutely nothing, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus Christ our Lord.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

MATTHEW 4:17,23-5:2

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

²³ And he [Jesus] went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. ²⁴ So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. ²⁵ And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan. **5** Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

LUKE 4:16-21

¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

MATTHEW 5:3-10

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

ISAIAH 57:15

¹⁵ For thus says the One who is high and lifted up,
who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:
"I dwell in the high and holy place,
and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly,
and to revive the heart of the contrite.

LUKE 18:9-14

⁹ He [Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

JAMES 4:6-7

⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

EZEKIEL 36:26-27

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

2 PETER 1:3-4

³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

2 CORINTHIANS 7:10

¹⁰ For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

1 JOHN 1:9

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

ROMANS 7:21-8:4

²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. **8** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

PSALM 103:11-12

¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him;
¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

ISAIAH 61:1-3

¹ The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

REVELATION 21:1-4

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away."