

KINGDOM LIFE

Inductive Study - Matthew 5:3-12

(STUDY 4 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.

If you missed the previous studies, we would encourage you to work through each study in turn as each one builds on the one before.

SONS OF GOD

READ Matthew 5:9 (Scripture passages at the back of the study):

5:9 – Why are the peacemakers blessed?

READ Galatians 3:24-26:

3:24-26 – How do we become sons of God (v26)?

READ Romans 8:14:

8:14 – Who are sons of God?

READ Galatians 5:22-23:

5:22-23 – What fruit does the Spirit cultivate in us?

READ Matthew 5:43-48:

- underline the phrase *You have heard that it was said.*
- put a box around the phrase *But I say to you*

5:43-45 – Who does Jesus say are sons of their Father who is in heaven? Why?

5:46-47 – How is such love *sacrificial*?

5:48 – Why must we love others, even our enemies, with the love of the Father?

So, we see that the sons of God are those who love their enemies, doing good to them without expectation of return, merciful children of the Father who are kind to the ungrateful and the evil. And, as we are about to learn, those eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit and to proclaim the Gospel of peace that others may hear of Christ, trust in Him, and become part of God's family too.

PEACEMAKERS

READ Galatians 3:28:

3:28 – What are we in Christ Jesus regardless of *ethnicity, social status, or gender*?

READ Ephesians 4:1-3:

4:1 – How are we to walk as God's beloved children?

4:2-3 – How do we walk in a manner worthy of our calling?

READ James 3:13-18:

- circle every reference to *wise / wisdom*.
- put a box around every reference to *peaceable / peace*.

3:13 – Who is wise and understanding?

3:14-15 – What are the *characteristics* of someone living by the *wisdom from below*?

3:16 – What is the *fruit* of such a life?

3:17 – What are the *characteristics* of someone living by the *wisdom from above*?

3:18 – What do peacemakers who sow in peace reap?

READ Romans 5:1:

5:1 – What do we now have as those justified by faith?

READ Romans 10:13-17:

10:13 – What is true of all who call on the name of the LORD?

10:14-15 – What must we proclaim if others are to hear of Christ, call on Him, and be saved?

10:16 – How might some respond upon hearing the Good News, the Gospel of peace?

10:17 – Where does faith come from?

READ Hebrews 12:14:

12:14 – What are we to strive for?

READ Romans 12:17-18:

12:17-18 – How are we to live as God's beloved children?

THINKING IT THROUGH

- How are we to respond to our enemies (Matthew 5:43)?
- What would doing good to those who revile or persecute us maybe prompt them to ask (1 Peter 3:15)?
- What brother or sister in Christ are you being challenged to exercise gentleness towards and to bear with in love?

PERSECUTED

READ Matthew 5:10-12:

- circle every reference to *persecuted* / *persecute*.

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

5:11-12 – Why are we to rejoice and be glad when persecuted for righteousness' sake?

5:12 – Who were persecuted the same way?

READ Hebrews 11:39-40:

11:39-40 – What more do we learn about the prophets and other saints of old who lived by faith before Christ came?

READ Hebrews 12:1-3:

- circle every reference to *we / us / our / you*.
- put a cross beside every reference to *Jesus* (including pronouns).

12:1 – Why are we to run the *race of faith*?

Where have we already learnt about those witnesses of faith?

12:1 – How are we to run?

12:2 – Who are we to look to as the greatest example of faith?

How was His faith in the Father *demonstrated* and then *vindicated*?

12:3 – Why are we to *consider* Jesus?

READ 1 Peter 1:3-7:

- circle every reference to *living hope / inheritance / salvation*.

1:3 – Why is the Father to be praised?

1:4 – What are we hoping for?

1:5 – How are we being guarded (kept) now to receive it in the last time?

1:5-6 – What do we rejoice in to strengthen faithfulness to Christ in trials?

1:7 – Why does God allow our faith to be tested by various trials?

READ 1 Peter 3:13-17:

3:13-14a – What is true of all who suffer for righteousness' sake (v14a)?

3:14b-15 – How are we to be *respond* to and be *prepared* for persecution?

How are we to make our defence?

3:16-17 – In the end, what is better (v17)?

Who are we to look to as our perfect example in doing so (Hebrews 12:2-3)?

What is our present suffering not worth being compared with (Romans 8:18)?

THINKING IT THROUGH

- What will happen to all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:12)?
- What might you suffer or lose (or have already done so) as you live as salt and light in the various contexts that God has placed you – home, workplace, sports club, etc?
- What hope do we rejoice in to keep shining for Jesus?
- What would you say if asked to give a reason for the hope that is in you? Pray for opportunities to do so.

REFLECTION

So, who are the blessed ones? Not who the world thinks are so. The kingdom of heaven belonging to the poor in spirit and persecuted. Its citizens called to follow their Servant King on the road marked suffering. Sojourners and exiles on the earth, full of meekness and mercy, pursuers of peace and purity of heart, hungry and thirsty for righteousness, sustained on their journey by the hope of glory to come. Those blessed by the Father who will one day inherit the Kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world and a life of unending joy and satisfaction together with Him.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

MATTHEW 5:9

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

GALATIANS 3:24-26

²⁴ So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

ROMANS 8:14

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

GALATIANS 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

MATTHEW 5:43-48

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

GALATIANS 3:28

²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

EPHESIANS 4:1-3

4 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

JAMES 3:13-18

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

ROMANS 5:1

5 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

ROMANS 10:13-17

¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

HEBREWS 12:14

¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

ROMANS 12:17-18:

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honourable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

MATTHEW 5:10-12

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
¹¹ "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

HEBREWS 11:39-40

³⁹ And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

HEBREWS 12:1-3

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or faint-hearted.

1 PETER 1:3-7

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 PETER 3:13-17

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

2 TIMOTHY 3:12

¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

ROMANS 8:18

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.