Matthew 5:1-12

- **Review…**
  - The Temptation…
    - Immediately after the Baptism of Jesus – the Spirit led Him into the wilderness for FORTY days…
    - The DEVIL [διάβολος] then came to Him with THREE temptations…
    - Each time Jesus responded by giving to satan the Word of God [it is written]
    - Showing us how we can overcome TEMPTATION – though the POWER of the Bible!
  - The Beginning of the Ministry…
    - After the arrest of John the Baptist [Jesus must increase – I must decrease] – **John 3:30**
    - Jesus left Nazareth [a prophet has no honor in His own country] - **Luke 4:24**
    - And began His public ministry in the city of Capernaum [fishing village on the Galilee]
    - There was a NEW preacher – a NEW place – but the message did not change – REPENT!
  - The Threefold Ministry…
    - After choosing several of the Disciples – Andrew – Peter – James – and John…
    - Jesus began to TEACH [explain] the Word all the synagogues [churches]
    - He then went out to PREACH [proclaim] the GOSPEL [good news] to those not in church…
    - All the while HEALING every kind of sickness – so people would come to hear His WORD!
- **1st – Sermon on the Mount… vs. 1-2**
  - 1st – The Mountain… vs. 1
    - Seeing the multitudes - He went up on a mountain!
    - The Mountain…
      - The Ministry of Jesus [teaching – preaching – healing] quickly gathered LARGE crowds…
      - And SEEING them – it stirred Jesus to want to TEACH them…
      - But He did NOT teach them in the city of Capernaum – instead He went up the MOUNTAIN!
      - MOUNTAIN – traditionally the 200 meter high hill just a little northwest of Capernaum…
      - Known to this day as the Mount of Beatitudes [הר האושר]
    - The Reason…
      - The question has to be asked – why did Jesus TEACH on the mountain…
      - FIRST – it might have been to help him since it was a LARGE multitude…
      - The elevation of the hill would allow him to be HIGHER – more easily seen and heard!
      - SECOND – it might have been to see who would follow…
      - The top of the mountain is over a kilometer – up a steep hill – from the city…
      - It would have taken an EFFORT for the people to CHOSE to come and LISTEN to Jesus!
      - A lot of people treat church as an afterthought…
      - They will come – if it is convenient – if there is nothing more important to do!
      - But following Jesus is NOT easy – it takes SACRIFICE – it takes EFFORT…
      - If we only come to hear the WORD of the LORD when it is easy…
      - Then we are going to miss out on the BEST of what Jesus wants to say to us!
  - 2nd – The Disciples… vs. 1-2
    - When He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them!
    - The MESSAGE Jesus gave was NOT meant for everyone…
    - He sat down and began to teach [διδάσκω] when His DISCIPLES came to Him…
    - DISCIPLES [μαθητής] – someone who wants to LEARN – a STUDENT…
    - This is NOT referring to the TWELVE – they were not chosen yet – **Matthew 10:1**
    - These DISCIPLES – were anyone who was willing to climb the MOUNTAIN!

- The ETHIOPIAN eunuch traveled THOUSANDS of kilometers to come to Jerusalem…
- And because he came seeking God – God send Philip to tell him about Jesus – **Acts 8:26**
- We will NOT find Jesus – if we are NOT looking for Jesus…
- When we come SEEKING the LORD – become DISCIPLES - that is when He will SPEAK to us!
- **Jeremiah 29:13** – "You will seek Me and find Me - when you search for Me with all your heart."

o 3rd – The Teaching…
- This is the Sermon of the King…
  - The teaching Jesus gave them - is the LONGEST one recorded in the New Testament…
  - Spanning THREE chapters in the book of Matthew – **Matthew 5-7**
  - Teaching those who want to LEARN how to be part of His KINGDOM – in THREE ways:
  - How to be SAVED from our SIN – **Matthew 5**
  - How to have in a RELATIONSHIP with God – **Matthew 6**
  - How we are to RELATE to others – **Matthew 7**
- Blessed…
  - Jesus opens up the teaching by giving eight BLESSINGS…
  - BLESSING [μακάριος] – 50x in NT – 9x here – meaning to be HAPPY…
  - We call them the Beatitudes - from the Latin word for HAPPY [beatus]!
  - Jesus is not giving to us EIGHT different BLESSINGS – there is just ONE blessing…
  - The BLESSING is that we can be citizens of KINGDOM of God...
  - And Jesus is going to tell the DISCIPLES how!

- **2ND – THE BEATITUDES… VS. 3-12**

o 1st – Poor in Spirit… vs. 3
- The Poor…
  - Blessed are the poor in spirit!
  - BLESSED are the POOR [πτωχοὶ] – those who lack POWER – those who are WEAK…
  - Not POOR monetarily – speaking of being POOR spiritually [in the spirit]
  - **Psalm 14:1** – "[We] are corrupt …there is none who does good!"
  - If you have ever seen a piece of rotting fruit – covered in filth – smelling terrible…
  - The instant reaction is to avoid it – there is NOTHING good there!
  - In the same way - we are CORRUPT – there is nothing GOOD in us…
  - We do not do BAD things because we are SINNERS…
  - We CANNOT do GOOD things – because of we are POOR [weak] spiritually!
- The Kingdom…
  - For theirs is the kingdom of heaven!
  - FOR [ὅτι] better translated as BECAUSE [causative conjunction]
  - BECAUSE - it is a BLESSING to recognize SPIRITUALLY poverty…
  - It is the KEY to becoming a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven!
  - Until we see the PROBLEM – that we are SINNERS…
  - We are not going to be open to the SOLUTION that God provided for SIN!

o 2nd – Those who Mourn… vs. 4
- Weeping…
  - Blessed are those who mourn!
  - BLESSED are those who MOURN [πενθέω] – to be BROKEN – WEE…
  - Because there is only ONE payment for SIN – and that is DEATH – **Romans 6:23**
  - We are NOT talking about physically death [though we will all die]
  - We are talking about the SECOND death – the Lake of Fire – **Revelation 20:14**
  - Knowing our FATE is eternal FIRE – should make us WEEP and MOURN!
- Comforted…

- For they shall be comforted!
- It is a BLESSING to MOURN – because God comes to COMFORT us…
- COMFORT [παρακαλέω] - called to come along side of us!
- When the PRODIGAL son took his inheritance and left – it broke the Father heart…
- Yet when the SON came back – HUMBLED – mourning over his foolish choices…
- **Luke 15:20** – "His father saw him - and had compassion - and ran [to him]."
- When we realize we are doomed SINNERS – and CRY out God for help…
- Heaven and Earth cannot keep our Heavenly Father from us…
- Our Dad RUNS to come and embrace us – pick us up – and HELP us!

o 3rd – The Meek… vs. 5

▪ Power of God…

- Blessed are the meek!
- BLESSED are the MEEK [πραΰς] – 3x in NT – also translated as LOWLY and QUIET…
- MEEKNESS means not putting our faith in our STRENGTH…
- Instead realizing that we need to look to the POWER of God!
- Moses was MEEK – because he depended on God – **Numbers 12:3**
- Jesus was MEEK – because He depended on the Father – **Matthew 21:5**
- We WANT to be those who are MEEK – humble before the LORD…
- Because the opposite of MEEKNESS – is PRIDE and arrogance…
- If we think we can be GOOD enough – try HARD enough to get to heaven…
- Then we are NOT meek – we are the PROUD!
- **I Peter 5:5** – "God resists the proud - but gives grace to the humble!"

▪ Our inheritance…

- For they shall inherit the earth!
- Which is why is a BLESSING to be MEEK – because only by the POWER of God…
- Do we get to INHERIT the earth [the Millennial Kingdom]
- At the END of the SEVEN years of Tribulation – the KING will return – **Revelation 19:16**
- He will destroy the armies of the Antichrist at Armageddon - **Revelation 16:16**
- And He will set up His millennial KINGDOM here on the earth [Kingdom of God]
- Where we will rule and reign with Jesus for a THOUSAND years - **Revelation 20:6**
- Not because we DESERVE it – but because we were HUMBLE – God gave us GRACE!
- **Psalm 37:11** – "The meek [humble] shall inherit the earth."

o 4th – The Hungry… vs. 6

▪ Participle…

- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness!
- BLESSED are those who HUNGRY [participle] and THIRSTY [participle]
- PARTICIPLE – takes a VERB [action] and makes it an ADJECTIVE [description]
- EXAMPLE – someone might occasionally go for a run [verb]
- But a RUNNER [participle] is someone who is defined by running!

▪ Righteousness…

- DISCIPLE is described [adjective] as being always HUNGRY and THIRSTY [Calorie Fellowship]
- But not for FOOD – they are continually craving RIGHTEOUSNESS
- RIGHTEOUSNESS [δικαιοσύνη] – to be accepted by God!
- With the same passion we CRAVE food and water…
- We should also LONG to be accepted by God – made RIGHT before Him!

▪ Filled…

- For they shall be filled!

- It is a BLESSING to HUNGER and THIRST – because we will be FILLED…
- FILLED [χορτάζω] – to be satisfied [no longer hungry]!
- Because God will MAKE [passive] us RIGHTEOUS through Jesus Christ…
- In Jesus – we have lived a PREFECT life – there is NO sin...
- When God looks down on us – He does not see our sinful mistakes...
- He instead sees the perfect life of His Son Jesus – He sees us as perfect - flawless!
- **II Corinthians 5:21** – "[God] made [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us - that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

o 5th – The Merciful… vs. 7
  - Not judgmental…
    - Blessed are the merciful!
    - BLESSED are the MERCIFUL [ἐλεήμων] – to relate to and have sympathy towards others!
    - We know what it is like to be a SINNER – because we are one…
    - We know we are POOR in spirit – we MOURN over our failures…
    - As a RESULT – we can relate to others when they make MISTAKES…
    - We are not JUDGMENTAL – instead we are MERCIFUL and try and HELP!
    - **Galatians 6:1** – "Brethren - if a man is overtaken in any trespass - you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness."
  - No judgement…
    - For they shall obtain mercy!
    - It is a BLESSING to be MERCIFUL to others – because then we will receive [passive] MERCY!
    - When we are harsh to others - we will receive the same from them…
    - Better to think the best of others – do not focus on their FLAWS...
    - Because then other will tend to think the BEST of us and our motives!
    - **Matthew 7:2** – "Others will treat you as you treat them. Whatever measure you use in judging others - it will be used to measure how you are judged." [NIV]

o 6th – The Pure of heart… vs. 8
  - Forgiven…
    - Blessed are the pure in heart!
    - BLESSED are the PURE [καθαρός] – to be CLEANSED of filth!
    - The new year is full of resolutions meant to try and make us healthy…
    - Promising to avoid particularly unhealthy food [lechon] – that is bad for our heart…
    - Food that can cause filth to build up – and eventually get to the place where it can kill us!
    - Spiritually we all have a FILTHY heart – coated in years of SIN…
    - And if we do not do something about it – it can kill us…
    - But if we are willing to CONFESS our SIN – God is willing to CLEAN our heart!
    - **I John 1:9** – "If we confess our sins - He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse [καθαρός] us from all unrighteousness."
  - Heaven…
    - For they shall see God!
    - It is a BLESSING to have God CLEAN our HEARTS…
    - Because it is ONLY with a CLEAN heart – we can we SEE God!
    - Moses wanted to see the FACE of the Lord – **Exodus 33:18**
    - But God told him - no man can look on His FACE and live - **Exodus 33:20**
    - Because God is HOLY – therefore SINFUL man would perish in the pure light of the LORD!
    - Yet when we come to the NEW Jerusalem – and we NO longer have sin…
    - When we have be in our glorified bodies – we will be able to look upon our HOLY God!
    - **Revelation 22:4** – "[We] shall see His face."

- 7th – The Peacemakers… vs. 9
  - Evangelism…
    - Blessed are the peacemakers!
    - BLESSED are those who BRING [ποιέω] PEACE [εἰρήνη]
    - Speaking of those who BRING the message of PEACE – the GOSPEL!
    - **Ephesians 2:14** – "For [Jesus] Himself is our peace."
    - Because it is not enough to KNOW we are POOR in spirit – and MOURN our SIN…
    - It is not enough for us to be MEEK – and realize we need the power of Jesus…
    - It is not enough for us to HUNGER and THIRST for His righteousness…
    - It is not enough for us to have a PURE heart – we need to think about OTHERS…
    - We are called to share the GOOD news – tell EVERYONE about Jesus!
    - **Romans 10:14** – "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace."
  - Sons of God…
    - For they shall be called sons of God!
    - We are BLESSED when we share the Gospel of PEACE…
    - Because talking to others about Jesus - shows we are the SONS of God!
    - I had a good friend in college who married a PRINCESS from Burma…
    - The reason I know that – is because he told EVERYONE about it!
    - If we are the children of the KING – we are NOT going to be shy about it…
    - We are going to tell EVERYONE who our FATHER is…
    - Our boldness in sharing the gospel of PEACE – is PROOF we belong to the KING!
- 8th – The Persecuted… vs. 10-12
  - For Righteousness… vs. 10
    - Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake.
    - For theirs is the kingdom of heaven!
    - BLESSED are those who are PERSECUTED [perfect] – to constantly be mistreated…
    - We are PERSECUTED for the sake of the RIGHTEOUSNESS of Christ…
    - We are called to tell others the message of the GOSPEL of peace…
    - But we are NOT to expect everyone to like what we SAY!
    - The GOSPEL is not GOOD news for everyone…
    - Some people LOVE [ἀγαπάω] their SIN – and do NOT want to come to Jesus…
    - So when we WARN them – tell them they are NOT going to heaven…
    - Their reaction is to attack the MESSENGER – they PERSECUTE us!
    - But the PERSECUTION has a subtle BLESSING attached to it…
    - It is another PROOF that we belong the KINGDOM of Heaven!
    - **John 15:18** – "If the world hates you - you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world - the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world - but I chose you out of the world - therefore the world hates you."
  - False Accusations… vs. 11
    - Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you.
    - And say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake!
    - We are BLESSED when men are ASHAMED of us – PERSECUTE us…
    - Say EVIL things about us that are NOT true – for the sake of Jesus…
    - But there is no BLESSING if we SUFFER for making poor choices!
    - **Peter 4:15** - "But let none of you suffer [because of sin]."
    - I have known people who claim to be SUFFERING for the Lord…
    - But if you look at their lives – their PROBLEMS are a consequence of their CHOICES…
    - We need to be careful NOT to blame God for our poor decisions…

- The BLESSING of the Lord only comes when we SUFFER for His sake!

- Great Reward… vs. 12
  - Rejoice and be exceedingly glad - for great is your reward in heaven.
  - For so they persecuted the prophets who were before you!
  - When we are PERSECUTED for sharing the Gospel of PEACE…
  - We MUST [imperative] be HAPPY [χαίρω] and overflow with JOY [ἀγαλλιάω]
  - Because the PERSECUTION reminds us this is NOT our HOME…
  - And our REWARD will not come on EARTH – it comes once we get to HEAVEN…
  - Because just like the PROPHETS of God who went before us:
  - **Hebrews 11:36-38** – "[Who] had trial of mockings and scourgings – chains and imprisonment! They were stoned. They were sawn in two [and] were slain with the sword. Of whom the world was not [imperfect] worthy."
  - As Steven was stoned to death because he STOOD up for Jesus – **Acts 7:56**
  - He looked up and saw Jesus – STANDING at the right hand of the Father in heaven…
  - Jesus does not STAND at the right hand – He sits – **Colossian 3:1 / Hebrews 8:1**
  - Here and ONLY here do we see Jesus standing in Heaven…
  - Jesus stood because He was PROUD of His son – He was cheering him as he came home!
  - Being BLESSED by God – does not mean we have an EASY life…
  - It might even mean we have to DIE for our faith [everyone dies]
  - The BLESSING is we heaven after we die – because we are CITIZENS of the Kingdom!