

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 [הַר הַאֲוֹשֵׁר]
 - 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 [πτωχοί] – 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 [πραύς] – 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 [ἔλεήμον] – 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 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.”

o 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!**

o 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!