



**AN ETERNAL
PERSPECTIVE
MATTHEW 5:3-12**

Genesis 1:28 NIV God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

- Leena Vincenz-Gavin, “After seeing His children created so perfectly and so much like Him, He blessed them by saying unto them: Be fruitful; grow in your relationship with Me, Multiply; create a beautiful family, And have dominion over all creation by taking care of it the way I will always take care of you.”

Genesis 1:28 NIV God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

- Notice God blessed them before they did anything or received anything except breath
- What did He bless them with?
- Responsibility

- Leena Vincenz-Gavin, “After seeing His children created so perfectly and so much like Him, He blessed them by saying unto them: Be fruitful; grow in your relationship with Me, Multiply; create a beautiful family, And have dominion over all creation by taking care of it the way I will always take care of you.”

Responsibility

- They were given the position and responsibility of being God's representatives on earth
- They were responsible to create life as God did
- They were responsible to rule and bring order to this creation as God did in the first six days
- They were responsible for a relationship with their creator

Responsibility

- They were responsible to have a forward-thinking perspective, looking ahead perspective, an eternal perspective
- God blessed them today, but the rewards were to be later
- The intent God had for mankind was for them not be bogged down with today but to be looking ahead, expectantly

This is what the faithful people of God did in the Old Testament

- **Hebrews 11:9-10 NIV** “By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”

This is what the faithful people of God did in the Old Testament

- **Hebrews 11:13 NIV** “All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.”

This is what the faithful people of God did in the Old Testament

- **Hebrews 11:16 NIV** “Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.”

This is what the faithful people of God did in the Old Testament

- So, I can summarize this by saying, “Lift up your eyes of faith and look ahead. God’s in all your tomorrows. This is where the true blessings are at.”
- This is the country, the city, the place, the time Jesus is describing as the Kingdom of God.
- He begins describing this Kingdom today

Matthew 5:3-12 NIV

- 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
- 5 Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
- 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness, for they will be filled.

Matthew 5:3-12 NIV

7 Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

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

9 Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

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

Matthew 5:3-12 NIV

11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

These words were so foreign to all these people, just as they are with us today

- After being shocked by these words from Jesus, knowing how Jews thought, what thoughts would be floating in their minds?
 - “This is not how it is done today.”
 - “This is not what I want or expected.”
 - “This is not fair.”

These words were so foreign to all these people, just as they are with us today

- And from purely human, stuck in time position, that is true
- Can you hear the questions
 - “Well, great, what about now today?”
 - “What about the Romans, taxes, poor, sick, forsaken today?”

These words were so foreign to all these people, just as they are with us today

- Can you hear them say, “Take care of me today”
 - Expected when today is screaming at you and tomorrow is whispering
- Jesus instructs us to listen, most observantly, to that still small voice of God in your Heart, Word, Savior

These were words that would eventually get Jesus crucified

- **Vs. 3** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
- Jesus was saying to Jews, “You will not see the city, place, time, the Kingdom of God without a humble, poor, needy spirit.”

These were words that would eventually get Jesus crucified

- Hear the Jews say, “Wait, Wait, Wait...What, that’s not the rules Jesus, you are incorrect.”
 - “We are Abraham’s offspring therefore ours is the Kingdom of God by birth.”
 - They believed in their self-righteousness, self-sufficiency because of who they were and what they brought to the relationship

These were words that would eventually get Jesus crucified

- **John 8:31-33 NIV** 31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” 33 They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

These were words that would eventually get Jesus crucified

- Jesus dropped this grenade, and it touched every nerve in the audience that day
- Jesus didn't say Abraham, He didn't say the descendants of Abraham, He didn't say Pharisees, He didn't say good people, He didn't say moral people inherited the Kingdom of God

These were words that would eventually get Jesus crucified

- He said those who were spiritually broken and realized their need for a Savior to be able to stand before a Holy and Righteous God accepted inherited the Kingdom
- It was all about their relationship with God in Creation's garden and it is still all about our relationship with God today through Jesus Christ

These blessings are given today but also going forward throughout eternity

- We must bring eternal thinking or perspective into our everyday lives every day
- We tend to think of Heavenly blessing in the “Sweet By and By”
 - Well, one day I will have peace, joy, cares taken care of

These blessings are given today but also going forward throughout eternity

- But today I have all these issues on my plate, and I just don't have time to think of heaven
- There will be others that think, "That much heavenly thinking will make you worthless today"
- "That kind of thinking will not work in today's world."

These blessings are given today but also going forward throughout eternity

- We as true Christians must understand the Kingdom of God is here today with the church as its representative
- The church is not buildings, religions or organizations, but born-again by the Holy Spirit of God, people

These blessings are given today but also going forward throughout eternity

- So, Jesus is telling us how to be blessed in the here and now
 - Blessed are the poor in spirit
 - Blessed are those who mourn “*their own unrighteousness or sin*”
 - Blessed are the meek “*strength under control*”

These blessings are given today but also going forward throughout eternity

- So, Jesus is telling us how to be blessed in the here and now
 - Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for “*God’s*” righteousness
 - Blessed are the merciful
 - Blessed are the pure in heart
 - Blessed are the peacemakers

These blessings are given today but also going forward throughout eternity

- So, Jesus is telling us how to be blessed in the here and now
 - Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness
 - Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me

These blessings are given today but also going forward throughout eternity

- Notice the words “Blessed are” or “You are truly blessed now if you...”
- Not if you do these things, you will be blessed but if you are these things then, you are already blessed

These blessings are given today but also going forward throughout eternity

- You have allowed the Holy Spirit to “born you again” and He brings or works these into your lives today
- We have the option to yield or rebel; life or death; slavery or freedom

These are the words that will bring hope in every circumstance, even death

- **Psalm 43:5 NLT**

- Why am I discouraged? *Because it is discouraging circumstances*
- Why is my heart so sad? *Because it is sad heartbreaking circumstances*

These are the words that will bring hope in every circumstance, even death

- **Psalm 43:5 NLT**

- *So, what is the answer?*
- I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again—my Savior and my God!

These are the words that will bring hope in every circumstance, even death

- So, how can living the Beatitudes bring hope?
 - We understand we are under the power and authority of God so nothing is outside of His ability to handle or handle us
 - Through repentance there is always acceptance before the Throne of God

These are the words that will bring hope in every circumstance, even death

- So, how can living the Beatitudes bring hope?
 - I have an inheritance that is indestructible and cannot be taken away
 - I will see God's righteousness highlighted in my life
 - I will be shown mercy by God and eventually, others

These are the words that will bring hope in every circumstance, even death

- So, how can living the Beatitudes bring hope?
 - My life will be filled with peace regardless of the circumstances
 - I will be identified with the King, eternally

These are the words that will bring hope in every circumstance, even death

- **Psalms 34:1-4 NIV** 1 I will extol (bless) the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. 2 I will glory in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. 3 Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together

The Apostle Paul had to learn this through a painful circumstance

- **2nd Corinthians 12:7-10 NIV** 7 Because of these surpassingly great revelations, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.
 - There's a word we don't want to experience in our lives, torment
 - Torment = Severe physical and/or mental suffering

The Apostle Paul had to learn this through a painful circumstance

- **2nd Corinthians 12:7-10 NIV** 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

The Apostle Paul had to learn this through a painful circumstance

- **2nd Corinthians 12:7-10 NIV** 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
- This is a truth not just for Paul, it is our truth today throughout eternity as well

The Apostle Paul had to learn this through a painful circumstance

- The Beatitudes are all about learning to be delighted with God himself, rather than the gifts he graciously gives us
 - We praise Him for His gracious gifts
 - But we delight in His glorious presence in our lives



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