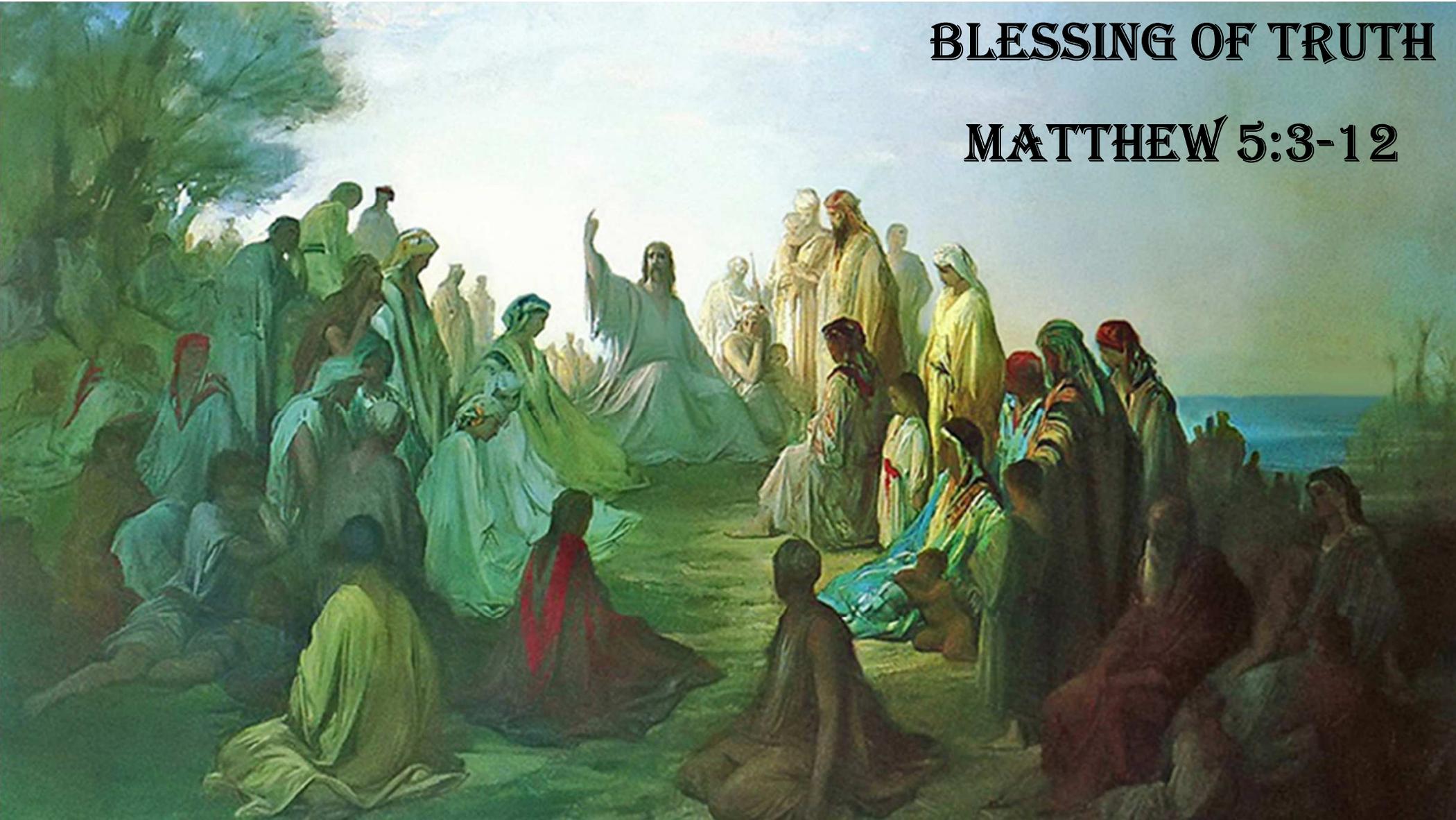


# BLESSING OF TRUTH

MATTHEW 5:3-12



## What is the greatest blessing God has given?

- Jesus stood before Pilate answering some of his questions
  - He did not respond every question posed to him
  - **John 18:33 NIV** “Are you the king of the Jews?”
  - **John 18:36 NIV** Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

## What is the greatest blessing God has given?

- Jesus stood before Pilate answering some of his questions
  - **John 18:37-38 NIV** “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” 38 “What is truth?” retorted Pilate.

## What is the greatest blessing God has given?

- So, what is the greatest blessing God has given?
  - Truth - absolute, unchangeable, truth
  - **Matthew 4:15-16 NLT** 15 “In the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali, beside the sea, beyond the Jordan River, in Galilee where so many Gentiles live, 16 the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow, a light has shined.

## **What is the greatest blessing God has given?**

- What was the light? God's revealed truth
  - Truth that leads us to eternal life, not eternal existence, but an eternal life of blessing starting here on earth
- The answer to Pilate's question is Jesus Christ

## What is the greatest blessing God has given?

- **John 17:3 NIV** Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.
- **John 14:6-7 NIV** 6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

## What is the greatest blessing God has given?

- The deeper we know and follow Jesus, the deeper life of blessing we experience here and throughout eternity
- That is the purpose of the Beatitudes and all of Jesus' teaching – To bring the light of truth into our lives
- They are not a list to checkoff when we think we have mastered a step

## **What is the greatest blessing God has given?**

- They are not to be looked upon as rules and regulations we must discipline ourselves to obtain
- They are to be accepted and applied, not judged and understood
- They are God's love shown in eternal truths that leads us into a deeper blessing through the presence of His Holy Spirit

## 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 are not rules or regulations that are being forced upon us**

- It is God's way of saying there is a better way to live
- A more blessed way to occupy your time on earth
- A richer, fuller more meaningful life
- A secure eternity of goodness
- Because mankind is naturally rebellious God must give us truth in how to live, how we can be truly blessed

## **See the Beatitudes given Christians in the same way as the Law was given to the Israelites**

- See the nation of Israel standing before Mt. Sinai with God present
  - Moses holding the Ten Commandments given him by God
  - Hear Moses speaking to the people truth about the requirements of God

## **See the Beatitudes given Christians in the same way as the Law was given to the Israelites**

- See the nation of Israel standing before Mt. Sinai with God present
  - Then giving them a choice to accept these commands and become blessed by God or reject and go their own way
  - If you do these things you will remain in the land and the blessing of God will be upon you

## **See the Beatitudes given Christians in the same way as the Law was given to the Israelites**

- See the nation of Israel standing before Mt. Sinai with God present
  - The Israelites will continue to be His people but without the blessing of the land
  - Remember the hardships they have encountered because they did not honor the Lord and keep His commands

## **See the Beatitudes given Christians in the same way as the Law was given to the Israelites**

- This is what Jesus is saying in the Beatitudes
  - The land of the Israelites in the Old Testament is now the Kingdom of God in the New Testament
  - If you want to live in the land with God's hand of blessing, then here is the truth you need

# See the Beatitudes given Christians in the same way as the Law was given to the Israelites

- Hear Jesus say
  - Do you want to be in the Kingdom of God?  
Humility (*no self-righteousness, grace alone*)
  - Do you want to have peace from the rebellion and circumstances in your life? Mourn (*your rebellion toward God that put Jesus on the cross*)

# See the Beatitudes given Christians in the same way as the Law was given to the Israelites

- Hear Jesus say
  - Do you want a greater eternal inheritance?  
Meekness (*Strength or self under control*)
  - Do you really want to live blessed? Desire God's righteousness or ways (*not your own*)

# See the Beatitudes given Christians in the same way as the Law was given to the Israelites

- Hear Jesus say
  - Do you want mercy from God and others? Then you show mercy (*even when you don't think it is deserved*)
  - Do you really want to stop questioning your motives? Then long for a pure heart (*a heart that desires what God desires*)

# See the Beatitudes given Christians in the same way as the Law was given to the Israelites

- Hear Jesus say
  - Do you really want peace in your life? You be a peacemaker or peace sustainer (*regardless how you are wired*)

# See the Beatitudes given Christians in the same way as the Law was given to the Israelites

- Hear Jesus say
  - Do you want the blessing of strength and hope when life's pressures seem to cripple you?
  - Learn to let God have complete and total control of your life without questioning Him
  - How?

## The blessings in these verses have nothing to do with circumstances

- Picture Daniel in the lion's den
  - He was there because of persecution, it was not fair
  - We don't see him fighting before being thrown in
  - We don't hear him making accusation before the king or his accusers

## The blessings in these verses have nothing to do with circumstances

- Picture Daniel in the lion's den
  - He simply put himself in God's hand and whatever God allowed he accepted – How?
  - He lived the Law of the Old Testament before a corrupt society
  - He lived the Old Testament Beatitudes when it was hard and made no human sense

## **The blessings in these verses have nothing to do with circumstances**

- Was Daniel blessed in the lion's den?
  - What if the lions tore his body apart, would he still have been blessed?
- The blessings on Daniel's life had nothing to do with his circumstances and everything to do with his heart

## The blessings in these verses have nothing to do with circumstances

- His heart's desire was to live so the name of God would be honored, and he left the when, what, where and how to Him
- Randy, can I really
  - Have peace from my past?
  - Be a peacemaker when that is not my natural nature?

## The blessings in these verses have nothing to do with circumstances

- Randy, can I really
  - Can I really have peace with whatever is ahead?
  - Can I really bring honor to God with my life so people can see Jesus?
- Yes, through God's grace and mercy with the presence of the Holy Spirit and the strong desire to be a Beatitudes man or woman

**Each individual Beatitude rests upon the foundation of the prior statement while being a foundation and step up to the next level of blessing**

- In coaching sports, we are constantly bringing in new skills while we consistently practice skills already learned
  - You can't shoot a layup until you learn to dribble

**Each individual Beatitude rests upon the foundation of the prior statement while being a foundation and step up to the next level of blessing**

- In coaching sports, we are constantly bringing in new skills while we constantly practice skills already learned
  - You can't rebound until you learn to jump and grab, together
  - All the while building up the stamina of the players

**Each individual Beatitude rests upon the foundation of the prior statement while being a foundation and step up to the next level of blessing**

- You cannot be poor in spirit until you have seen what the cost of your sin was, the death of the sinless Christ
- Through the Gospel you see you can humbly come and accept the forgiveness offered by God and be placed into His Kingdom

**Each individual Beatitude rests upon the foundation of the prior statement while being a foundation and step up to the next level of blessing**

- Until you are in the Kingdom and under the Holy Spirit you will not be able to mourn your sins, but in the Kingdom, you will begin to long for your life to come under the control of God
- Once we see how difficult living a life of God on our own is, we will hunger and thirst for the life of Jesus to be real and active in your life

**Each individual Beatitude rests upon the foundation of the prior statement while being a foundation and step up to the next level of blessing**

- Mercy becomes the first thought when we trust our Heavenly Father like Jesus did then we will begin making godly decisions from a pure heart

**Each individual Beatitude rests upon the foundation of the prior statement while being a foundation and step up to the next level of blessing**

- The name of Jesus and how others see Him through you becomes more important than being right
- Then we reach the place where we accept every event God brings into our lives and bless Him for it
- How?

## You must allow God to work these blessings into your life using the furnace of affliction

- **Isaiah 48:10 NIV** See, I have refined (*matured*) you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.
- Oswald Chambers reminds us that "God has one destined end for mankind—holiness. His one aim is the production of saints."

## You must allow God to work these blessings into your life using the furnace of affliction

- **Psalms 119:65-69 NLT** 65 You have done many good things for me, Lord, just as you promised. 66 I believe in your commands; now teach me good judgment and knowledge. 67 I used to wander off until you disciplined (*afflicted*) me (*this was a good thing*); but now I closely follow your word. 68 You are good and do (*allow*) only good; teach me your decrees (*truths*).

## You must allow God to work these blessings into your life using the furnace of affliction

- Sue Bohlin, "Let's face it, left to ourselves we are a dirty, messy, fleshly people, and we desperately need to be made pure. As hurtful as it is, suffering can purify us if we submit to the One who has a loving plan for the pain."
- Joni Tada said, "You were made for one purpose, and that is to make God real to those around you."

# The cross of Jesus Christs forms the foundation for the Beatitudes to rest upon

- Or, the Kingdom of God rests upon the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross
- **Matthew 16:18 AMP** 18 And I say to you that you are Peter (*petros- a small or detached stone*), and on this rock (*petra-bedrock or a huge rock*) I will build My church; and the gates of Hades (*death*) will not overpower it [*by preventing the resurrection of the Christ*].

## The cross of Jesus Christ forms the foundation for the Beatitudes to rest upon

- **Isaiah 28:16 NLT** Therefore, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: “Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken.

# **The cross of Jesus Christs forms the foundation for the Beatitudes to rest upon**

- The question then is how much of God's blessing do you want in your life today?
  - Are you settling for just being in the Kingdom of God?
  - Have you really come to grips with your sins, all of them, and turned away from them?

## **The cross of Jesus Christs forms the foundation for the Beatitudes to rest upon**

- The question then is how much of God's blessing do you want in your life?
  - Do you get mad when God brings in events to exercise your self-control under pressure?
  - Do you actively seek to be in a right standing before God?

# The cross of Jesus Christs forms the foundation for the Beatitudes to rest upon

- The question then is how much of God's blessing do you want in your life?
  - Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to exercise your mercy to someone who does not deserve it in your eyes?
  - Are you learning how to be a maker and maintainer of peace?

# The cross of Jesus Christs forms the foundation for the Beatitudes to rest upon

- The question then is how much of God's blessing do you want in your life?
  - Do you get mad when someone laughs at your relationship with Jesus?
  - Can you take persecution and let God be your avenger?

# **The cross of Jesus Christs forms the foundation for the Beatitudes to rest upon**

- The truth-there is more blessing for you in this life as you allow the Holy Spirit move you up the ladder of Beatitudes

# BLESSING OF TRUTH

MATTHEW 5:3-12

