

106. Sermon on the Mount, Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-16)

Prayer: Our Father in Heaven, every day You fill us with Your blessings. We deserve nothing, but You are kind and full of mercy. Make Your blessings and Your goodness shine in us, so all people can see Your work and give glory to You. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Matthew 5:1-10. When Jesus saw the large crowds of people, He went up on the mountain. Jesus sat down and His disciples came to Him. Jesus began teaching them and said,

“People poor in spirit are blessed, why?	The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.
People mourning are blessed, why?	They will get comforted.
People who are gentle are blessed, why?	They will inherit the earth.
People hungry and thirsty for righteousness are blessed, why?	They will become satisfied.
People who show mercy are blessed, why?	They will also receive mercy.
People pure in heart are blessed, why?	They will see God.
People who make peace are blessed, why?	They will be named ‘Sons of God.’
People who get persecuted because they are righteous are blessed, why?	The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.”

- Go down the left column. How does the world think about each of those kinds of people? The poor in spirit, the mourning, gentle, etc.
- Look at the left column again. How does God think about each of those people?
- Imagine what those people are like. Are they proud, humble, friendly, full of hate? Describe their attitude in life.
- Now look at the right column, the blessings Jesus says those people will have. What do those people do to get those blessings? For example, if you are mourning, what must you do to get comforted?
- Another word for “blessed” is “happy.” Does that change the meaning? Why can these people be happy?

Matthew 5:11-12 Jesus said, “When people insult you, persecute you, and lie and say bad things about you, because you believe in Me, then you are blessed. Rejoice and be very happy. Your reward in heaven is great. The same way, people persecuted the prophets who lived before you.”

- This last “blessed” is a little different. Jesus said people will insult you, persecute you, and lie about you, why?
- What should our reaction be? What should we think and feel?

Matthew 5:13 You are the salt of the earth. If salt loses its taste, how can you make it become salty again? The salt becomes worthless. You throw it out in the street and people walk on it.

- Name two things salt does for food.
 - 1.
 - 2.
- As a Christian, how do you do those two things for the earth?
- Suppose you call yourself a Christian, but you think and live and act the same as everyone else. Are you still “salty?” How much does that help the world?

Matthew 5:14-16 You are the light of the world. You can’t hide a city if it is on top of a hill. The same, people don’t light a lamp and put it under a basket. No, people put the lamp on a lampstand and it lights the whole house. Let your light shine for other people. Then they can see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

- What is your “light?” Where do we get our light?
- Why do we want to do good works?