

## THE BLESSING WAY: OF THE MEEK & THE MERCIFUL

**THESIS:** Let Us Bless

**TEXT:** Matthew 5:1-7

**OPEN:** Insight (pt 1) from John MacArthur on Jesus' Sermon on Mount (*MacArthur NT Commentary, Matthew 1-7*)

In **Matthew 5:1-7** let's discover the blessings from God for the way of the meek and merciful.

**Blessed** (Greek: *makarios*) means blissful, fortunate, good, or happy. Theologian W.E. Vine: "Mak—means large."

### LET'S BLESS AND BE BLESSED BY BEING HUMBLE FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

**Matthew 5:1-5** "Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on a mountainside and sat down, His disciples came to Him, <sup>2</sup>and He began to teach them, saying: <sup>3</sup>'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. <sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.'"

1. *Be humble in the blessing way by being poor in spirit.*

A. **Poor** (Greek: *ptochoi*) means to cower, cringe, shrink, or to be helpless. "The word refers to a person reduced to total destitution, who crouched in a corner begging—holding out one hand for alms while hiding his face with the other in shame of being recognized. The term did not mean simply poor, but begging poor" (*MacArthur NT Commentary, Matthew 1-7*, p. 145).

1. **Luke 18:9-14** "To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to Heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.'"

2. *Be humble in the blessing way by mourning.*

A. **Mourn** (Greek: *pentheo*) means to grieve over, to be of sorrow.

1. **Luke 19:41-44** "As Jesus approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it and said, 'If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you.'"

a. **Application:** Pray for lost souls—unbelievers—that they would repent, be baptized, and obey the Lord so they might be pardoned from the punishment of their sins—eternal damnation in the lake of fire prepare for the devil and his angels (*Mtt 25:41*).

2. **2 Corinthians 7:8-11** "Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in

- any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done...”
3. **2 Peter 2:5-9** “For if God did not spare the ancient world when He brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if He rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)—if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.”
3. *Be humble in the blessing way by meekness.*
    - A. **Meek** (Greek: *praus*) means easy, gentle, or mild. It is grace of the soul.
      1. Christ uses meek or gentle to describe His own personality or mood.
        - a. **Matthew 11:29** “Jesus says, ‘Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle (*praus*) and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.’”
        - b. **2 Corinthians 10:1** “By the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you...”
          1. *Quote from W.E. Vine:* “The meekness manifested by the Lord and commended to the believer is the fruit of power. The common assumption is that when a man is meek it is because he cannot help himself (weak); but the Lord was meek because He had the infinite resources of God at His command. Described negatively, meekness is the opposite of self-assertiveness and self-interest. It is not occupied with self at all” (*Expository Dictionary of NT Words*, p. 728).
      2. Meekness is a willingness to yield and not crash into people or running over them.
        - a. **Proverbs 15:1** “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”
        - b. **Judges 8:1-3** “The Ephraimites asked Gideon, ‘Why have you treated us like this? Why didn’t you call us when you went to fight Midian?’ And they criticized him sharply. But he answered them, ‘What have I accomplished compared to you? Aren’t the gleanings of Ephraim’s grapes better than the full grape harvest of Abiezer? God gave Oreb and Zeeb, the Midianite leaders, into your hands. What was I able to do compared to you?’ At this, their resentment against him subsided.”
      3. Meekness refers to a humble attitude expressing itself in patient submission to God.
        - a. **John 15:10-11** “Jesus said, ‘If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father’s commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.’”
          1. *Quote from unknown author:* “Meekness signifies a temperance of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting.”

**CONCLUSION:** What is the blessedness of being humble? Yours will be the kingdom of Heaven...you will be comforted...you will inherit the earth. The ultimate and full reward of being humble is eternal life, but the blessedness/benefit/goodness is now also—in being poor in spirit, mourning, and meekness.

**Insight** (pt 2) from John MacArthur on true blessedness (*The MacArthur NT Commentary, Matthew 1-7*, p. 141-144).

**Illustration:** (*Blessedness—hallelujah letters from the Rush County jail*)

**Matthew 5:6-7** “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

**CLOSE:** Let’s bless and be blessed by being humble for the kingdom of Heaven.