



The beatitudes.

SUMMARY | The greatest “speech” ever delivered was the Sermon on the Mount. It wasn’t just a speech for a time or a context, but for all times and all contexts. And its importance is amplified dramatically because of who delivered it—Jesus Christ.

Let’s look at this speech by focusing on the powerful, dramatic opening to that message—the Beatitudes. Through the first few beatitudes we will explore the counterintuitive ways of the kingdom of Christ.

This Week’s Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 5:1–12. As the first major address of Jesus’ public ministry, what makes His opening (the Beatitudes) so compelling?
2. Focus on the word blessed. In what ways have you heard it used? How can Jesus’ use of that word inform us of His intent behind the Beatitudes?
3. The blessed mourner (v. 4) is one example of how Jesus’ kingdom is so different from the values of our world system. Why is the Father’s response to mourning significant?
4. In our society, many of the values highlighted in the Beatitudes are viewed as weakness. Why does true gentleness require a strength that is beyond us?

Challenge

Make a list of the descriptions of the blessed in Matthew 5:3–11.
Which do you find the most challenging? Which seems the most needed
for our day?



Commit To Memory

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

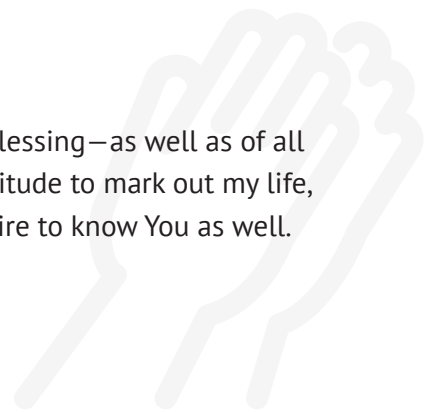
Matthew 5:3 NIV



Prayer

Father, I acknowledge that You are the source of all real blessing—as well as of all blessings. I pray that You would allow the blessing of beatitude to mark out my life, that others might see Your care and compassion and desire to know You as well.

Amen.





The beatitudes.

SUMMARY | As we studied the Beatitudes in the first half of this Discover the Word series, we learned that Jesus was a dynamic speaker who garnered attention for who He was just as much as for what He said. His words pierced the hearts of those who listened then, and should pierce our hearts today.

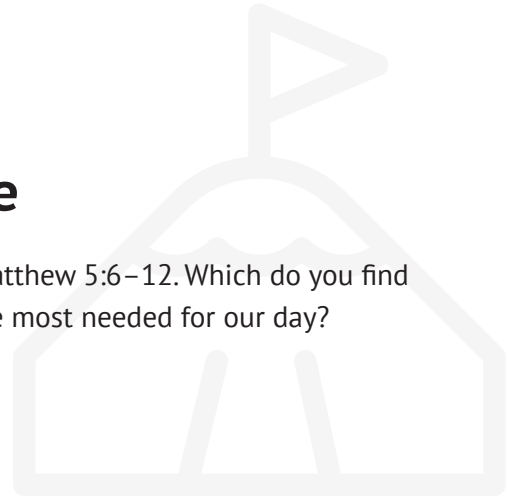
Let's join Mart, Elisa, Bill, and Daniel again as we focus on the second half of the Beatitudes to see how the blessed life is also filled with challenges.

This Week's Discussion Questions

1. Consider a time when you were extremely thirsty. What emotions and desires did that stir within you? What could that experience of thirst tell us about what it means to hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matthew 5:6)?
2. Focus on the word mercy in Matthew 5:7. In what ways has mercy been given to you by God? By others? How can you be a conduit of mercy as well?
3. In a world of conflict, peace seems to often be in short supply. Jesus speaks of a possible remedy for this in the blessed peacemaker in Matthew 5:9. How would that have been heard by the Jewish zealots, who were revolutionaries intent on violently overthrowing Rome?
4. Spend a few minutes online learning about Christ-followers who are experiencing persecution around the world. How does your experience compare or contrast to theirs? How can you support these brothers and sisters in their suffering?

Challenge

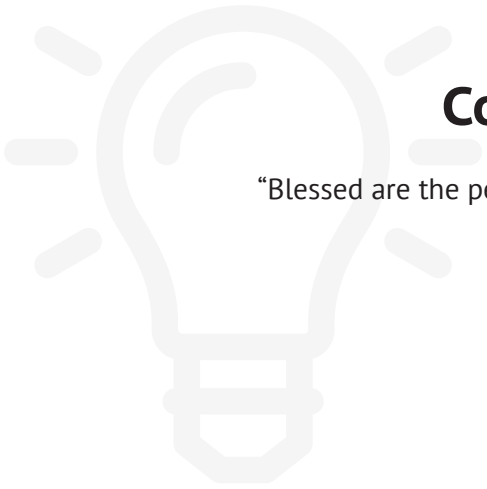
Make a list of the descriptions of the blessed in Matthew 5:6–12. Which do you find the most challenging? Which seem to be the most needed for our day?



Commit To Memory

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

Matthew 5:9 NIV



Prayer

Father, I grieve as I see all of the conflict around me. Relationships are crumbling, nations are battling, and people are growing more and more polarized.

I pray that you would equip me and help me to be an instrument of Your peace in the midst of these turbulent times.

Amen.

