

Matthew 5

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them

Matthew 5:1-2

PRAYER: Father, as we study the Beatitudes and Similitudes, please show me how I, as Your disciple, ought to live.

Journal your prayer here:

PREVIEW: In Matthew 5:1-16, we see God’s ideal plan for our sanctification, and how our lives should reflect these qualities.

Matthew 5 Outline:

The Beatitudes - Read Matthew 5:1-12

The Similitudes - Read Matthew 5:13-16

The Beatitudes - Read Matthew 5:1-12

1. Matthew 4:23-25 talks about the ministry that Jesus performed in Galilee, referring to many different situations and circumstances when He dealt with “seeing the multitudes” (v. 1). To whom was He ministering—who were the multitudes?

2. Matthew 5-7 is referred to as the Sermon on the Mount. Where does Jesus go upon “seeing the multitudes” (v. 1)? (See also Matthew 14:23, Mark 3:13, and Luke 9:28.)

3. In Jewish culture, preachers would stand; when teaching or explaining, they would sit. When Jesus went up on the mountain, He sat down to teach (vv. 1-2). To whom is this lesson addressed?

4. **PROPOUND:** To whom are the Beatitudes and Similitudes applicable? To whom are they not (v. 1)?

5. The word *blessed* begins the next nine verses. The word *beatitude* (*beatus* in Latin) means “happy.” The Beatitudes show the path to true happiness. Read Psalm 33:12 and Psalm 32:1. What makes a person blessed, or happy?

6. **PRODUCE:** A paragon is something regarded as an example of excellence. A paradox is a self-contradictory statement. All the Beatitudes are either a paragon or a paradox. Label each as such.

7. The path to true happiness begins with being poor in spirit (v. 3). What does it mean to be poor in spirit? (See Psalm 34:18; 51:17 and Isaiah 57:15; 66:2)

8. What is promised to those who are poor in spirit (v. 3)?

9. **PROCEED:** An example of one who is poor in spirit is found in Luke 18:13. A contrast to the poor in spirit is found within the church of Laodicea (see Revelation 3:17). Contrast these two; what do you discover?

10. What is promised to those who mourn (v. 4)? What do you think they mourn over? (See Psalm 32:3-7, Luke 7:36-50, and 2 Corinthians 7:8-10.)

11. **PROPOUND:** Explain why those who mourn ought to consider themselves “blessed” or “happy” (see Psalm 32:1).

12. The meek shall inherit the earth (v. 5). Who in the Bible is described as meek? (See Numbers 12:3 and Matthew 11:29.)

13. Meekness is a true view of oneself, expressed in attitude and conduct with respect to others. This makes us gentle, humble, sensitive, and patient when dealing with others. Read Psalm 37 and pick out the verbs which express meekness.

14. **PROPOUND:** What does it mean that the meek will “inherit the earth”? (See Psalm 37:9; 22 and Matthew 25:21.)

15. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled (v 6). What does it mean to hunger and thirst for righteousness? (See Psalm 42:1-2, 63:1-2, and 84:2.) What will these be filled with? (See John 6:35.)

16. **PROCLAIM:** Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are filled with what? (See John 6:35 and 15:4.) Share with the group how this happens.

17. The merciful obtain mercy. Define mercy. (See Matthew 6:14-15; 18:33-35, and Proverbs 11:17; 14:21; 19:17.)

18. What does it mean to be pure in heart? (See Matthew 23:25-28, 1 Chronicles 29:17-19, and Psalm 15:2.) What does it mean to see God? (See Acts 7:55-56 and 1 Corinthians 13:12.)

19. **PROMOTE:** We all *have* sinned and *continue* to sin (see Romans 3:23 and 1 John 1:8). Proverbs 20:9 says, “Who can say, ‘I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin’?” Share with the group how believers can keep their heart pure (see Psalm 101:2-4 and 1 John 1:9-10).

20. **PROPOUND:** Read 1 John 1:8-10. Trick Question: What is the worst kind of sin?

21. What are some characteristics of a peacemaker? (See 2 Timothy 2:24-26 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-21.)

22. What does it mean to be persecuted for righteousness sake? (See Luke 6:22; 21:12, John 15:20, and 2 Timothy 3:12.)

23. Why should a believer rejoice when they are reviled and persecuted for righteousness' sake (vv. 11-12)? What is the promise made (v. 12)?

24. **PROPOUND:** Christians might be persecuted for acting stupid—but what two “sakes” did Jesus list as requirements for being blessed?

25. **PRACTICE:** The Beatitudes are progressive, building upon each other and requiring the previous before the next. Describe their progression.

The Similitudes - Read Matthew 5:13-16

26. Jesus refers to His disciples as the salt of the earth (v. 11). What effect does salt have if it keeps its flavor?

27. **PROPOUND:** Jesus referred to His disciples as “salt.” How can a person, like salt, “lose their flavor”?

30. Jesus also refers to His disciples as the light of the world (v. 14). How does He say they are to “let their light so shine”? (See Matthew 6:1-5, Acts 9:36, 1 Timothy 6:18, and 1 Peter 2:12.)

31. **PROPOUND:** Before whom are we to let our light shine? What will be the result (Matthew 5:16)?

32. **PROTECT:** The Beatitudes and Similitudes contain God's ideal plan for our sanctification. How can you be sure you're partaking in this process? (See John 17:17.)

33. **PROCESS:** Take some time to review the Beatitudes and Similitudes. Does your life reflect them? Why or why not?

PRAY: Father, please help me to live out the Beatitudes and Similitudes. Without your Holy Spirit, I know I cannot. Please empower me to do so.

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