

Spiritual Talk

Discussion and Understand the Context are taken and adapted from EXPLORE THE BIBLE: MATTHEW –THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT Lifeway Press 2015

Matthew 5:1–12

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

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

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Understand the Context

Religion in Jesus' day was filled with rules, regulations and traditions. Unfortunately, many of the religious leaders of this time were hypocritical and legalistic. Jesus' attitude toward the law of Moses was a refreshing change. Jesus sought to bring the focus back to the true messages of the Old Testament prophets recorded in the Scriptures.

Because of their leader's false teachings, the people didn't understand that the ancient prophets were encouraging a heartfelt obedience to God's message and not merely a dutiful observance of laws and rituals

The Gospel of Matthew 5–7 is commonly called the Sermon on the Mount. The first section (5:3–10) is known as the Beatitudes. This passage captures the attention of the disciples and all who were listening. These were not just empty words spoken, but spoken as

Jesus probably spoke this sermon on a hillside near the Sea of Galilee. He begins His sermon by telling people how they could experience true happiness.

Discussion

- As you look over the beatitudes, which one do you believe is the most needed in our world today?
- What beatitude most resonates with you?
- What action do you need to take to more faithfully live according to Jesus' standards?
- What questions (if any) do you have about the beatitudes that you need to investigate?

