**MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY— SESSION 2**

**SERMON ON THE MOUNT  
Homework for Matthew 5:3-12 — The Beatitudes   
SYS 9/25/24 EWH 10/2/24**

READING The Beatitudes, Matthew 5:3-12  
  
QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 4. Reviewing session 1, summarize the events leading up to the day Jesus preached this sermon. What message was Christ communicating? What stood out most to you?

2. The word "blessed" in Greek is *markarious* -- not how you feel but who you are due to God's favor. One author wrote that when God says, "blessed are you," it means "between you and God all is well." Take time to go before the Lord and consider your state of blessedness.

3. It is tempting to view natural temperaments as fulfilling the Beatitudes that Jesus taught. But there is a significant difference between a person living the Beatitudes and a person's natural personality.  
  
For example, Jesus teaches in Matthew 5:5, "*Blessed are the gentle (or meek, lowly), for they shall inherit the earth."* A common dictionary definition of *gentle* reads: "Having a kind, mild, or tender temperament; sensitive; moderate in action; not harsh or severe." This definition refers to a natural temperament.

However, the Blue Letter Bible (BLB) Greek Lexicon definition of *gentle* (Gk: *praus*) reads as follows:   
Outline of Biblical Usage: "Meekness toward God is that disposition of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting. In the OT, the meek are those wholly relying on God rather than their own strength to defend against injustice. Thus, meekness toward evil people means knowing God is permitting the injuries they inflict, that He is using them to purify His elect, and that He will deliver His elect in His time (see Isa 41:17 and Luke 18:1-8). Gentleness or meekness is the opposite to self-assertiveness and self-interest. It stems from trust in God's goodness and control over the situation. The gentle person is not occupied with self at all. This is a work of the Holy Spirit, not of the human will ([Gal 5:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/lsb/gal/5/23/))."  
  
We can see that the biblical usage of *gentle* opens to us what Jesus meant by what He said.

To prepare for the next discussion, look up as many words as you can from Mt. 5:3-12, on the BLB online site. Then record the meanings for a better grasp of Jesus' words for us and explain what you've learned.  
  
1) Using Matthew 5:5 as an example, access BLB at https://www.blueletterbible.org.  
2) Search for your Scripture reference in the Search the Bible box: click Quick Nav to locate your book, chapter, and preferred version.   
3) To find definitions from the Greek lexicon (dictionary), click on your verse (v5), then tools, then interlinear. Scroll down to find your word, then click the Strong's number to the right (ex: G4239) to explore the entry.  
4) Further, BLB includes a list of cross-references and helps to deepen your understanding. To locate cross-references, click tools, then click cross references. *The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge* page will open and you will find each verse where your word is used throughout Scripture. It's an amazing tool.

For those of you unfamiliar with BLB online, email Terry to sign up for a short Zoom training session.