

## Pre-sermon Comments

### Matthew 10:16 LSB

<sup>16</sup> “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves.

Christians are not to be gullible simpletons. ~ R.T. France

## Sermon Text

### Matthew 5:2-12 LSB

<sup>2</sup> And He opened His mouth and *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 shall be comforted. <sup>5</sup> Blessed are the lowly, for they shall inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. <sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. <sup>8</sup> Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. <sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. <sup>10</sup> Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. <sup>12</sup> “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

## Proposition and Outline

In the His introduction to His Sermon on the Mount ([Matt 5-7](#)), the King’s Manifesto for His Kingdom, King Jesus reveals nine steps to your purpose and ultimate blessing in this life and beyond:

Step One: Possess True Poverty ([Matt 5:3](#))

Step Two: Persevere in Learning What Offends God ([Matt 5:4](#))

Step Three: Pursue Lowliness ([Matt 5:5](#))

Step Four: Pursue Righteousness ([Matt 5:6](#))

Step Five: Prefer Mercy ([Matt 5:7](#))

Step Six: Pursue Inward Purity ([Matt 5:8](#))

Step Seven: Pursue Peace (Be a Peacemaker) ([Matt 5:9](#))

Step Eight: Patiently Endure Persecution for Righteousness' Sake ([Matt 5:10](#))

Step Nine: Patiently Endure Libel ([Matt 5:11](#))

## Review

### **Matthew 4:23 LSB**

<sup>23</sup> And Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

### **Matthew 4:24 LSB**

<sup>24</sup> And the news about Him spread throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them.

### **Matthew 4:25 LSB**

<sup>25</sup> And large crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and *from* beyond the Jordan.

### **Matthew 5:1 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

[Matthew 7:28](#) (LSB) <sup>28</sup> Now it happened that when Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were astonished at His teaching;

The teachings of the Sermon on the Mount are for believers today, marking the distinctive lifestyle that should characterize the direction, if not the perfection, of the lives of Christians of every age. ~ John MacArthur

## Step One: Possess True Poverty ([Matt 5:3](#))

### You Must Understand the Nature of Blessing

How could a message as demanding and impossible as the Sermon on the Mount be intended to make people happy? ~ John MacArthur

#### **Matthew 5:48 LSB**

<sup>48</sup> “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

#### **Psalm 1:1 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the way of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

#### **Psalm 32:1–2 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered! <sup>2</sup> How blessed is the man whose iniquity Yahweh will not take into account, And in whose spirit there is no deceit!

#### **Psalm 40:4 LSB**

<sup>4</sup> How blessed is the man who has made Yahweh his trust, And has not turned to the proud, nor to those who stray into falsehood.

#### **Psalm 119:1–2 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> How blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the law of Yahweh. <sup>2</sup> How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, They seek Him with all *their* heart.

#### **Psalm 128:1 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> How blessed is everyone who fears Yahweh, Who walks in His ways.

#### **Matthew 11:6 LSB**

<sup>6</sup> “And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me.”

#### **Matthew 13:16 LSB**

<sup>16</sup> “But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.

**Matthew 16:17 LSB**

<sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

**Matthew 24:46 LSB**

<sup>46</sup> “Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.

**Matthew 5:3 LSB**

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

“Blessed” should not be understood merely in the sense of “happy,” since happiness is a vague idea, often with a shallow, emotional ring to it. ~ D.A. Carson

**Philippians 4:11–13 LSB**

<sup>11</sup> Not that I speak from want, for I learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. <sup>12</sup> I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in abundance; in any and all things I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

## You Need to Recognize the Source of Blessing is God Himself

**Psalms 66:20 LSB**

<sup>20</sup> Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer Nor His lovingkindness from me.

**Psalms 68:35 LSB**

<sup>35</sup> O God, *You are* awesome from Your sanctuary. The God of Israel Himself gives strength and might to the people. Blessed be God!

**Psalms 72:18 LSB**

<sup>18</sup> Blessed be Yahweh God, the God of Israel, Who alone works wondrous deeds.

**1 Timothy 1:11 LSB**

<sup>11</sup> according to the gospel of the glory of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.

**1 Timothy 6:15 LSB**

<sup>15</sup> which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

[Acts 17:24-25](#) (LSB) <sup>24</sup> “The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; <sup>25</sup> nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things;

## You Must Understand Who Can Be Blessed

There is no blessedness, no perfect contentedness and joy of the sort of which Jesus speaks here, except that which comes from a personal relationship to Him, through whose “magnificent promises” we “become partakers of the divine nature” ([2 Pet. 1:4](#)) ~ John MacArthur

### **2 Peter 1:3-4 LSB**

<sup>3</sup> seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. <sup>4</sup> For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

[1 Timothy 1:15-16](#) (LSB) <sup>15</sup> It is a trustworthy saying and deserving full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost. <sup>16</sup> Yet for this reason I was shown mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Christ Jesus might demonstrate all His patience as an example for those who are going to believe upon Him for eternal life.

### **Ephesians 3:7-8 LSB**

<sup>7</sup> of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God’s grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. <sup>8</sup> To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to proclaim to the Gentiles the good news of the unfathomable riches of Christ,

## What does it mean to be blessed?

Blessing is the state of happiness in our inward selves. It comes from the acknowledgement of the reality of how fortunate we are to have a relationship with Jesus. It produces an inner bliss and contentment that comes from

recognizing all that God has done for us and that no circumstance or set of circumstances can change our happiness or contentment in Christ.

## Who is the source of blessing?

God Himself is the source of this blessing. We can only be truly blessed by partaking in His divine nature.

## Who are the Blessed?

The blessed are those who have believed in the promises of Christ and are living in the present reality of the Holy Spirit living within them with an ever-increasing understanding of what He is accomplishing through them.

## The Beatitudes are progressive.

Being poor in spirit reflects the right attitude we should have to our sinful condition, which then should lead us to mourn, to be meek and gentle, to hunger and thirst for righteousness, to be merciful, pure in heart, and have a peacemaking spirit. A Christian who has all those qualities will be so far above the level of the world that his life will rebuke the world—which will bring persecution from the world (5:10–12) and light to the world (vv. 14–16). ~ John MacArthur

## You Must Be Poor In Spirit

### What does it mean to be poor in spirit?

#### **Luke 16:20–21 LSB**

<sup>20</sup> “But a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup> and desiring to be fed with the *crumbs* which were falling from the rich man’s table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores.

#### **Luke 21:2 LSB**

<sup>2</sup> And He saw a poor widow putting in two lepta.

[Luke 6:20](#) (LSB) <sup>20</sup> And turning His gaze toward His disciples, He *began to say*, “Blessed are the poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

## What does Jesus intend here?

### Matthew 5:42 LSB

<sup>42</sup> “Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

### James 1:9–10 LSB

<sup>9</sup> But the brother of humble circumstances is to boast in his high position; <sup>10</sup> and the rich man *is to boast* in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away.

### Matthew 6:19 LSB

<sup>19</sup> “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

### 1 Timothy 6:9–10 LSB

<sup>9</sup> But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evils, and some by aspiring to it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

[Matthew 5:3](#) (LSB) <sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

To be poor in spirit is to be poor in the inward man, not in outward circumstances. Consequently, to be poor in spirit is to recognize one’s poverty spiritually before God. ~ **James Montgomery Boice**

Poverty of spirit is a kind of self-annihilation. ~ **Thomas Watson**

### Luke 18:10–12 LSB

<sup>10</sup> “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> “The Pharisee stood and was praying these things to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> ‘I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’

### Luke 18:13 LSB

<sup>13</sup> “But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his chest, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’

## How do we know that we are poor in spirit?

### Psalm 51:16-17 LSB

<sup>16</sup> For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. <sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

[Isaiah 66:2](#) (LSB) <sup>2</sup> “For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being,” declares Yahweh. “But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.

Humility is the sweet spice that grows from poverty of spirit. ~ **Thomas Watson**

### Jeremiah 17:9 LSB

<sup>9</sup> “The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can know it?”

Poverty of spirit is the personal acknowledgment of spiritual bankruptcy. It is the conscious confession of unworth before God. As such, it is the deepest form of repentance. ~ **D. A. Carson**

## What will happen when we are poor in spirit?

[Matthew 5:3](#) (LSB) <sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Being poor in spirit is the first beatitude because humility must precede everything else. No one can receive the kingdom until he recognizes that he is unworthy of the kingdom. ~ John MacArthur

## Conclusion:

### Luke 19:9-10 LSB

<sup>9</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.”



If the Holy Spirit has laid anything on your heart in the preaching of this sermon, please contact one of the leaders or speak to a mature Christian to answer your questions. I can be contacted at [brandon.phillips@gracegainesville.org](mailto:brandon.phillips@gracegainesville.org).

Join us next week as we continue to look at Jesus's nine steps to your purpose and ultimate blessing in this life and beyond.

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