

The King's Purpose for You, Step Two

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The King and His Glory / Matthew 5

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.

Pre-sermon Comments

[2 Corinthians 1:1-5](#) (LSB) ¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy *our* brother, **To** the church of God which is at Corinth with all the saints who are throughout Achaia: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For just as the sufferings of Christ abound to us, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

- Are you currently going through health issues?
 - Quite possibly, God will use you to comfort others afflicted in similar ways.
- Are you enduring depression?
 - You can be hopeful that God will use your struggles to encourage others in similar positions.
- Are you struggling with your children?
 - God may be setting you up to help others in the future.

The Beatitudes are paradoxical, because what they promise for what they demand seems incongruous and upside down in the eyes of the natural man. ~ John MacArthur

1 Corinthians 2:12-14 LSB

¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the *depths* graciously given to us by God, ¹³ of which *depths* we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *depths* with spiritual *words*. ¹⁴ But a natural man does not accept the *depths* of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually examined.

Every revival proves clearly that men who are outside the Church always become attracted when the Church herself begins to function truly as the Christian Church, and as individual Christians approximate to the description here given in these Beatitudes. ~ Martyn Lloyd Jones

Sermon Text

Matthew 5:1-12 LSB

¹ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. ² And He opened His mouth and *began to* teach 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 lowly, 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 have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹² “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](#)) [Review]

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

The Context of the Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 4:23-25 LSB

²³ 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. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ And large crowds followed Him from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and *from* beyond the Jordan.

Matthew 5:1-2 LSB

¹ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. ² And He opened His mouth and *began to* teach them, saying,

Deuteronomy 18:15 LSB

¹⁵ “Yahweh your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers; you shall listen to him.

[Matthew 7:28-29](#) (LSB) ²⁸ Now it happened that when Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were astonished at His teaching; ²⁹ for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as their scribes.

Matthew 5:3 LSB

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

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 God the Father through Jesus the Son. This relationship produces an inner bliss and contentment that comes from an ever-increasing recognition of 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. Therefore, we can only be truly blessed by partaking in His divine nature. As the psalmist promises, “In His presence is fullness of joy and in His right hand are pleasures forever” ([Ps 16:11](#)).

Psalm 16:11 LSB

¹¹ You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

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.

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

What does it mean to be Poor in Spirit?

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**

Conviction must of necessity precede conversion, a real sense of sin must come before there can be a true joy of salvation. ~ Martyn Lloyd Jones

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

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

Matthew 5:4 LSB

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

The philosophy of the world is, forget your troubles, turn your back upon them, do everything you can not to face them. Things are bad enough as they are without your going to look for troubles, says the world; therefore be as happy as you can. The whole organization of life, the pleasure mania, the money, energy and enthusiasm that are expended in entertaining people, are all just an expression of the great aim of the world to get away from this idea of mourning and this spirit of mourning. ~ Martyn Lloyd Jones

Pleasure brings happiness, money brings happiness, entertainment brings happiness, fame and praise bring happiness, self-expression brings happiness. On the negative side, avoiding pain, trouble, disappointment, frustration, hardships, and other problems brings happiness. Sidestepping those things is necessary before the other things can bring full happiness. Throughout history a basic axiom of the world has been that favorable things bring happiness, whereas unfavorable things bring unhappiness. The principle seems so self-evident that most people would not bother to debate it. ~ John MacArthur

What is the meaning of mourning?

The Greek word used here has the idea of “*experiencing sadness as the result of some condition or circumstance.*”

Legitimate Types of Mourning

To express these sorrows and to cry over them opens an escape valve that keeps our feelings from festering and poisoning our emotions and our whole

life. It provides the way for healing, just as washing out a wound helps prevent infection. ~ John MacArthur

Mourning over Death

Genesis 23:1-2 LSB

¹ And Sarah lived 127 years; *these were* the years of the life of Sarah. ² Sarah died in Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan; and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.

Genesis 49:33-50:1 LSB

³³ So Jacob finished commanding his sons. And he drew his feet into the bed and breathed his last and was gathered to his people. ¹ Then Joseph fell on his father's face and wept over him and kissed him.

Genesis 50:10 LSB

¹⁰ And they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, and they lamented there with a very great and immense lamentation; and he observed seven days of mourning for his father.

John 11:32-35 LSB

³² Therefore, when Mary came where Jesus was, she saw Him, and fell at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus therefore saw her crying, and the Jews who came with her *also* crying, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled, ³⁴ and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus wept.

Mourning over Life's Difficulties

2 Timothy 1:6-7 LSB

⁶ For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:3-4 LSB

³ I am grateful to God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I unceasingly remember you in my prayers night and day, ⁴ longing to see you, having remembered your tears, so that I may be filled with joy,

Illegitimate Mourning Types of Mourning

Mourning for long periods after legitimate mourning

2 Samuel 18:32–33 LSB

³² Then the king said to the Cushite, “Is there peace with the young man Absalom?” And the Cushite answered, “Let the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up against you for evil, be as that young man!” ³³ Then the king trembled and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And thus he said as he walked, “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!”

2 Samuel 19:5–6 LSB

⁵ Then Joab came into the house to the king and said, “Today you have shamed the faces of all your servants, who today have provided escape for your life and the lives of your sons and daughters, the lives of your wives, and the lives of your concubines, ⁶ by loving those who hate you, and by hating those who love you. For you have informed *all of us* today that princes and servants are nothing to you; for I know this day that if Absalom were alive and all of us were dead today, surely then it would be right in your eyes.

Mourning over Unfulfilled Desires or Plans

[Matthew 27:3–4](#) (LSB) ³ Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴ saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? See *to that* yourself!”

2 Samuel 13:2 LSB

² And Amnon was so distressed because of his sister Tamar that he made himself ill, for she was a virgin. So it was hard in Amnon’s sight to do anything to her.

False Piety

[Matthew 6:1](#) (LSB) ¹ “Beware of doing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

[Matthew 6:2](#) (LSB) ² “Therefore, when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets,

so that they may be glorified by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

[Matthew 6:5](#) (LSB) ⁵ “And when you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

Matthew 6:16–18 LSB

¹⁶ “Now whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites *do*, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. ¹⁷ “But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face ¹⁸ so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

Luke 18:12 LSB

¹² ‘I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’

False puritanism often manifested itself in an assumed piety. It was not natural; it did not come from within; but people affected and assumed a pious appearance. It almost gave the impression that to be religious was to be miserable; it turned its back upon many things that are perfectly natural and legitimate. In that way a picture was given of the Christian man that was not attractive, and, I think, there has been a violent reaction against it, a reaction so violent that it has gone to the other extreme. ~ Martyn Lloyd Jones

What does Jesus mean by mourning?

Matthew 5:4 LSB

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

Mark 16:10–11 LSB

¹⁰ She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and crying. ¹¹ And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.

At the individual level, this mourning is a personal grief over personal sin. This is the mourning experienced by a man who begins to recognize the blackness of his sin, the more he is exposed to the purity of God. ~ **D. A. Carson**

Psalms 32:3–4 LSB

³ When I kept silent *about my sin*, my bones wasted away Through my groaning all day long. ⁴ For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away *as with the heat of summer*. Selah.

Psalm 51:3-4 LSB

³ For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against You, You only, I have sinned *And* done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And pure when You judge.

Psalm 32:1-2 LSB

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

How does God bless our mourning?

Come back next Sunday to see!

Conclusion:

For now, I leave you with the story of George Whitefield's conversion as described by Digby L. James.

In the Fall of 1732 George Whitefield went to Pembroke College, Oxford, his tuition being funded by acting as a servitor for other students. He did all the chores for those whose families could afford to pay for their tuition. Working in an inn had trained him perfectly for such tasks. This made him popular with the wealthier students.

He started attending church regularly, singing psalms and praying daily. He was an ideal person to join the Methodists (a pejorative name, along with Bible Moths and Bible Bigots) as they had a similar concern for religion. Their name for themselves was the Holy Club. It was after about a year that he met Charles Wesley. He was invited to breakfast in Charles's room. Charles lent him some books, the most significant of which was Henry Scougal's, *The Life of God in the Soul of Man*.

Whitefield recounted: In a short Time he let me have another Book, intituled [entitled], *The Life of God in the Soul of Man*; and, tho' I had fasted, watched

and prayed, and received the Sacrament so long, yet I never knew what true Religion was, till God sent me that excellent Treatise by the Hands of my never to be forgotten Friend.

At my first reading it, I wondered what the Author meant by saying, "That some falsely placed Religion in going to Church, doing hurt to no one, being constant in the Duties of the Closet, and now and then reaching out their Hands to give Alms to their poor Neighbours,"—Alas! thought I, "If this be not Religion, what is?" God soon shewed me. For in reading a few Lines further that "true Religion was an Union" of the Soul with God, and Christ formed "within us;" a Ray of divine Light was instantaneously darted in upon my Soul, and from that Moment, but not till then, did I know that I must be a new Creature.

This completely undermined Whitefield's beliefs. Everything he had been doing up to this point was without value. He resolved to do everything he could to become a new creature. He worked so hard at it that he nearly killed himself. He began to live by the rigid rules of the Holy Club, accounting for every moment of the day. It did him no good. He felt a load of sin pressing upon him, and nothing took it away. He went to extremes, not eating, not speaking. At one point "It was now suggested to me, that Jesus Christ was amongst the wild Beasts when he was tempted" and that he should follow his example. He would go outside and pray, in the cold, even lying on the ground, for hours. His health began to deteriorate and one of his hands was turning black. His tutor began to worry about him and there were fears he would die. After seven weeks of sickness, he found he had a thirst which drinking did not allay. He remembered that when Christ was near an end of his sufferings he said "I thirst." He threw himself onto his bed and cried to God "I thirst! I thirst!" the first time he had looked outside of himself for help. His load lifted and he found himself full of joy. "The Spirit of Mourning was taken from me, and I knew what it was truly to rejoice in God my Saviour, and, for some Time, could not avoid singing Psalms wherever I was." He had become a new creature in Christ. In a sermon preached near the end of his life, he said "I know the place: it may be superstitious, perhaps, but whenever I go to Oxford, I cannot help running to that place where Jesus Christ first revealed himself to me, and gave me the new birth." ((Sermon LXXII, *All Men's Place on [Ecclesiastes 6:6](#)*.)

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.

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.

Quotes

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

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

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