

## The King's Purpose for You, Step Three

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Brandon Phillips / General

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.

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## Pre-sermon Comments

### Matthew 5:5 LSB

Blessed are the lowly, for they shall inherit the earth.

[Revelation 1:5](#) (LSB) and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—

### Revelation 1:6 LSB

and He has made us *to be* a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him *be* the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.

## Sermon Text

### Matthew 5:1-12 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. <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

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

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

**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 5:3-4 LSB**

<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.

## What does it mean to be blessed?

Blessing is the state of happiness in our inward selves. It comes from the acknowledgment 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**

<sup>11</sup> 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) <sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

## What does it mean to be Poor in Spirit?

Poor in Spirit: Jesus is saying that God blesses a person who recognizes their spiritual bankruptcy or destitution. They must recognize their lostness in sin, hopelessness in life, and helplessness to save themselves. They must see that they are utterly unworthy of God and are completely dependent upon Him to save them. They must cry out like Isaiah, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, Yahweh of hosts” ([Isa 6:5](#)).

**Isaiah 6:5 LSB**

<sup>5</sup> Then I said, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, Yahweh of hosts.”

[Matthew 5:3](#) (LSB) <sup>3</sup> “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**

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

## What does Jesus mean by mourning?

Godly mourning is a deep and abiding sorrow that is produced by the knowledge of our sins and how far we fall short of God's glory. This type of mourning can only be experienced by those who have recognized their spiritual poverty and desperate need for God's mercy and grace. We see this type of mourning in the lives of saints like Isaiah ([Isa 6:5](#)) and David ([Ps 32:3-4](#) & [Ps 51:3-4](#)).

## How does God bless our mourning?

### Matthew 5:4 LSB

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

## What does “comforted” mean?

### John 14:16–17 LSB

<sup>16</sup> “And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, that He may be with you forever; <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him. You know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

## How do we receive this comfort?

### Romans 7:24 LSB

<sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from the body of this death?

### 1 John 1:9 LSB

<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

### Matthew 11:28 LSB

<sup>28</sup> “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

As often as we confess our sin, He is faithful to forgive, and for as long as we mourn over sin He is faithful to comfort. ~ John MacArthur

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

**Matthew 5:5 LSB**

Blessed are the lowly, for they shall inherit the earth.

World conquest—possession of the whole universe—given to the meek, of all people! The world thinks in terms of strength and power, of ability, self-assurance and aggressiveness. That is the world's idea of conquest and possession. The more you assert yourself and express yourself, the more you organize and manifest your powers and ability, the more likely you are to succeed and get on. ~ D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

**John 8:31-32 LSB**

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word, *then* you are truly My disciples;

and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

[John 8:33](#) (LSB) They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s seed and have never yet been enslaved to anyone. How is it that You say, ‘You will become free?’”

**John 8:34 LSB**

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.

**Isaiah 65:2 LSB**

“I have spread out My hands all day long to a rebellious people,

Who walk *in* the way which is not good, following their own thoughts,

They had ideas of the kingdom which, you remember, were not only materialistic but military also, and to them, the Messiah was one who was going to lead them to victory. So they were thinking in terms of conquest and fighting in a material sense, and immediately our Lord dismisses all that. It is as though He says, ‘No, no, that is not the way. I am not like that, and my kingdom is not like that.’ ~ D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

[Meekness] is completely and entirely opposed to everything which the natural man thinks. ~ Martyn Lloyd Jones.

## What did Jesus mean by “the lowly”?

[Matthew 5:5](#) (LSB) Blessed are the lowly, for they shall inherit the earth.

There is, first of all, that fundamental postulate about being ‘poor in spirit’. That is the primary fundamental spirit that leads in turn to a condition of mourning as we become aware of our sin; and that, in turn, leads to this spirit of meekness. But—and I want to emphasize this—we not only find this logical connection between them. I would point out, also, that these Beatitudes as they proceed become increasingly difficult. ~ D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

[Matthew 11:29](#) (LSB) “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

**Matthew 21:5 LSB**

<sup>5</sup> “SAY TO THE DAUGHTER OF ZION, ‘BEHOLD YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU, LOWLY, AND MOUNTED ON A DONKEY, AND ON A COLT, THE FOAL OF A PACK ANIMAL.’”

[2 Corinthians 10:1](#) (LSB) Now I, Paul, myself plead with you by the gentleness and forbearance of Christ—I who am humble when face-to-face with you, but courageous toward you when absent!

Jesus was the very King of meekness. ~ **Arthur Walkington Pink**

[Matthew 26:53](#) (LSB) “Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?”

Meekness does not connote weakness. The word was used in much extrabiblical literature to refer to the breaking of an animal. Meekness means power put under control. ~ John MacArthur

Meekness is not weakness, but meekness does not use its power for its own defense or selfish purposes. Meekness is power completely surrendered to God’s control. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

[1 Peter 3:1-4](#) (LSB) <sup>1</sup> In the same way, you wives, be subject to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, <sup>2</sup> as they observe your pure conduct with fear. <sup>3</sup> Your adornment must not be *merely* external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on garments; <sup>4</sup> but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible quality of a lowly and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

**Psalm 37:1-2 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward doers of unrighteousness. <sup>2</sup> For they will wither quickly like the grass And fade like the green herb.

**Psalm 37:3–7 LSB**

<sup>3</sup> Trust in Yahweh and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. <sup>4</sup> Delight yourself in Yahweh; And He will give you the desires of your heart. <sup>5</sup> Commit your way to Yahweh, Trust in Him, and He will do it. <sup>6</sup> He will bring forth your righteousness as the light And your judgment as the noonday. <sup>7</sup> Be still in Yahweh and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out schemes of wickedness.

[Psalm 37:8–9](#) (LSB) <sup>8</sup> Cease from anger and forsake wrath; Do not fret; *it leads only to evildoing.* <sup>9</sup> For evildoers will be cut off, But those who hope for Yahweh, they will inherit the land.

[Psalm 37:10](#) (LSB) <sup>10</sup> Yet a little while and the wicked man will be no more; You will look carefully at his place, and he will not be *there*.

**Psalm 37:11 LSB**

But the lowly will inherit the land

And will delight themselves in abundant peace.

Meekness is the bridle of anger. ~ **Anonymous**

Meekness is the opposite of self-will towards God and of ill-will towards men. ~ **Arthur Walkington Pink**

**Deuteronomy 32:35–36 LSB**

<sup>35</sup> ‘Vengeance is Mine, and retribution, In due time their foot will stumble; For the day of their disaster is near, And the impending things are hastening upon them.’ <sup>36</sup> “For Yahweh will render justice to His people, And will have compassion on His slaves, When He sees that *their* strength is gone, And there is none *remaining*, bond or free.

Thus a deep trust in the sovereign power of God is the key to meekness. ~ **R. Kent Hughes**

[Matthew 5:5](#) (LSB) <sup>5</sup> Blessed are the lowly, for they shall inherit the earth.

Meekness is a jewel polished by grace. ~ **Sinclair Buchanan Ferguson**

# What does Jesus mean by the lowly will inherit the earth?

[Genesis 1:26–28](#) (LSB) <sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, so that they will have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” <sup>27</sup> And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that creeps on the earth.”

## **Psalm 37:11 LSB**

<sup>11</sup> But the lowly will inherit the land And will delight themselves in abundant peace.

## Conclusion:

### **2 Corinthians 5:18–20 LSB**

<sup>18</sup> Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup> namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their transgressions against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> So then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as God is pleading through us. We beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:1 LSB**

<sup>1</sup> Finally then, brothers, we ask and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.

## Communion

### **1 Corinthians 11:23–27 LSB**

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was being betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when He



had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.”<sup>25</sup> In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.”<sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until He comes.<sup>27</sup> Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

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.

## Quotes

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

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

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