

The Sermon on the Mount:
The Beatitudes
Matthew 5:1-12

Lesson One

Observation: Please read **Matthew 5:1-5**

Introduction: The word "Beatitudes" is taken from the Latin word "beatus" which means "blessed" or "happy". Thus, the Beatitudes are blessings from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Each one represents a blessing or divine favor bestowed upon God's people who possess a certain character quality.

Questions for Consideration:

- Do you think that Jesus seeing the masses prior to giving the Sermon on the Mount had any impact on the timing and content of His message?
- Why do you think that Jesus said that those who are "poor in spirit", or lowly, afflicted, helpless or powerless are blessed? Why would those in that condition be poised to receive the kingdom of heaven? (vs. 3)
- In what ways might God's comfort in the time of mourning seem like a blessing? (vs. 4)
- How is meekness as a character quality given such a position of strength in that those who possess it are promised to inherit the earth? (vs. 5)

Personal Exploration:

- How do Jesus' words encourage you at times when your meekness may have been misinterpreted as weakness?

Inspiration:

Please take the time to reflect and journal how God has been faithful to you at times when you may have felt "poor in spirit" or been in mourning.