

TALK IT OVER

Blueprints: Jesus' Plan for Life

Week 1 – The Beatitudes

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Icebreaker: When is the last time you felt blessed by God?

Opening Question: What are you building your life on?

The Beatitudes

- 1. Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:3 (NIV)**
 - We are poor in spirit when we come to the end of ourselves
 - This is the basis foundation – we surrender ourselves to God
 - Blessing – the kingdom of heaven is ours when we rely on God
- 2. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Matthew 5:4 (NIV)**
 - Jesus gives us permission to grieve the brokenness in the world
 - As we grow closer to Jesus, we begin to see our own brokenness
 - We begin to mourn our brokenness; not condemnation, but conviction.
 - Conviction is an invitation to a better life.
 - Blessing – we are comforted by God when we mourn our brokenness
- 3. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Matthew 5:5 (NIV)**
 - Only Moses and Jesus described as meek in the Bible
 - Meek = strength under control
 - When we come under the Holy Spirit's control – see fruit of Spirit in our lives
 - Blessing – we will inherit the earth
- 4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Matthew 5:6 (NIV)**
 - When we confess our sin and receive forgiveness, we are made righteous positionally
 - Jesus is referring to rightness relationally

- Not about rules, ethics, morals, or laws for their sake
- It's how we treat one another based on a loving relationship
- Blessing – we experience satisfaction and fulfillment

5. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Matthew 5:6 (NIV)

- Mercy draws people into the Kingdom of Heaven
- Contrast between Jesus and the religious leaders (Pharisees)
- Jesus shows mercy to woman caught in adultery, Zaccheaus, Woman at Well
- Mercy is getting a blessing we don't deserve.
- There is a gravitational pull for Christians to become Pharisees
- Blessing – as we extend mercy to others, we receive God's mercy

6. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Matthew 5:7 (NIV)

- Jesus calls out the sin cycle
- When we sin, do we run toward God or away from Him?
- Pure in heart is not about perfection. About being honest with God and others. Be Real.
- Blessing – when we get real with God, we see Him for who He is

7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5:8 (NIV)

- We are called to bring peace wherever God places us.
- To reestablish Shalom (harmony)
- Called to be peacemakers in our homes, workplaces, neighborhoods, schools.
- When we feel fear and anger rising, take it to Jesus
- Blessing – be called a child of God – resemble the Father

8. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:9 (NIV)

- This foundation is different than the world's foundation
- If we do these things, we will be opposed. We threaten the status quo.
- We join a long line of faithful servants – Hebrews Hall of Fame
- Blessing – we experience the Kingdom of Heaven

Observations about Jesus' Blueprints

- ✓ A foundation on values, not performance
- ✓ A character to embrace, not just commands to follow
- ✓ A heart posture, not just a checklist.

What blueprints am I building my life on?

Action Item: Read 1 Beatitude each day this week. Pray about it. Ask God to build it in you.

Week 1: The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3–10)

Discussion Questions – One per Beatitude

- 1. Matthew 5:3 – "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."**

Where in your life are you being invited to admit your need for God instead of relying on yourself?

- 2. Matthew 5:4 – "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."**

What pain or brokenness—personal or in the world—are you being invited to grieve with Jesus instead of avoiding?

- 3. Matthew 5:5 – "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."**

When have you chosen to respond with gentle strength instead of force—and how did it reflect Jesus?

- 4. Matthew 5:6 – "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."**

What do you find yourself craving right now—and is it leading you toward God or just toward distraction?

- 5. Matthew 5:7 – "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."**

Is there someone in your life right now who needs mercy from you rather than judgment or distance?

6. Matthew 5:8 – "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."

What's one area of your life where God is inviting you to stop hiding and start being honest—with Him and with others?

7. Matthew 5:9 – "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

What would it look like to be a peacemaker this week—in a conversation, a conflict, or a community issue?

8. Matthew 5:10 – "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Where have you felt resistance or pushback for doing what's right—and how can that draw you closer to Jesus rather than discouraging you?

Reference and Small Group Study Opportunity:

The Beatitudes – Matt Chander on Right Now Media
<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/content/details/744026>