

## Day 1

### It's time to climb

**Matthew 5:1-12(NKJV)** *And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught 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 meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain 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 are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

Over the next several weeks, we are going to dig into the first part of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, which is called the “Beatitudes”. The word beatitude means; supreme blessedness, exalted or perfect happiness. Christ offers us a blessedness that nothing else can compare. The key to this happy life is to embrace God’s way of receiving it and understanding what kind of mindset it takes to create this kind of life! The purpose of our series will be to discover what it takes to live a blessed life. Blessed, not defined from a worldly or natural perspective, but what does Jesus call a ‘blessed life’? Are you ready to have a blessed life, from Jesus’ perspective?

If I were to make an assumption, I think you would agree with me that we all desire to live a happy life. None of us vote for a life of misery and drudgery and unhappiness. We know that life is short, and life is too precious to waste it on being consistently miserable! We hear people in real estate say it all the time, “location, location, location.” What they are talking about is being in a specific geographical location where people want to live or operate a business for maximum profit.

Spiritually, that can be true as well. The difference is, it has nothing to do with where you are on a geographical map, but everything to do with locating yourself spiritually. Jesus, in Matthew 5, shows us a spiritual road map to locate ourselves, but also shows us how to move beyond where we are. We will see that Jesus teaches us how to live a blessed and fulfilled life, God’s way! Living this way will take more than a desire, a willingness or even a hope.

Henry Ward Beecher said: ***“The strength of a man consists in finding out the way God is going and going that way.”*** True blessedness does not come unless you go God’s way. That is the foundation of it all.

**Matthew 5:1-2 (Message)** *When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said: <sup>3</sup>“You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.”*

Have you noticed that whenever God wants to take you further, whenever God wants to take you deeper, you’re going to have to make an extra effort? We have to come to a place in our lives where we realize, we ourselves, are not powerful enough, strong enough, great enough, or smart enough to get where God wants us to be. You’re going to have to live a life of total submission. You have to recognize

that God is smarter than you, bigger than you, greater than you, and He knows everything about you before you were ever at the place where you are now in your life.

Are you willing to climb higher with Jesus to hear what you need to hear? Then will you be willing to live the way He wants you to live? Decide at the onset that you are willing to make the extra effort to hear God's voice over the next several weeks. Make a quality decision to be quiet long enough to hear His directions. Climb to that place where you can sit at His feet and let Him teach you how to be blessed, His way...

**Reflection and Prayer:**

- **Ask the Lord for a willing attitude throughout this time of learning.**
- **Pray for an open ear to hear what the Lord is saying to you.**
- **Rely on the Holy Spirit to give you the energy to climb higher, not simply on your own effort.**
- **Pray for your fellow believers that are on this journey with you.**