

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Matthew 5:1-12

"Blessed Are the Citizens of the Kingdom"

Preaching Date: May 24, 2026

Opening Prayer

Ask God to give us humble hearts under the authority of Christ's Word and to understand what Jesus teaches about the citizens of His kingdom. Pray that He would expose pride, false measures of blessing, shallow religion, hidden sin, and fear of man. Ask Him to form in us the character of those who belong to the King.

Recap

In Matthew 5:1-12, Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes. He teaches His disciples what the citizens of His kingdom look like.

The Beatitudes are not a ladder by which sinners climb into God's favor. They describe the people whom grace has humbled, pardoned, and renewed.

This passage shows us that true blessedness is not defined by the world, but by the King. The citizens of Christ's kingdom are humbled before God, changed by grace, visible in mercy and holiness, and willing to bear reproach for Christ's name.

Understanding the Text

1. Why is it significant that Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes?
2. What does "blessed" mean in this passage? How is Christ's definition of blessing different from the world's definition?
3. Why must we understand that the Beatitudes are not a way to earn entrance into the kingdom?
4. What does it mean to be "poor in spirit"? Why does this Beatitude come first?
5. What kind of mourning does Jesus bless in verse 4? How is this different from merely feeling bad about consequences?
6. What does meekness mean biblically? Why is meekness not the same thing as weakness?
7. What does it mean to hunger and thirst for righteousness? How does this include both justification and sanctification?
8. How do mercy, purity of heart, and peacemaking show the visible fruit of kingdom grace?
9. Why does Jesus end the Beatitudes by speaking about persecution? What does persecution reveal about the relationship between Christ's kingdom and the world?

Personal Reflection & Application

1. Where are you most tempted to measure blessing the way the world does, by comfort, success, approval, money, ease, influence, or control?
2. Are there places where you are still trying to come before God with claims rather than empty-handed need?
3. Is there any sin you have excused, minimized, or hidden instead of mourning it before God?
4. What do your appetites reveal about you? What are you most hungry for right now: righteousness, comfort, approval, entertainment, control, or something else?
5. Are you merciful, pure in heart, and a maker of peace in your actual relationships, especially in your home and church?
6. Are there any situations where you have confused avoiding conflict with peacemaking?
7. Are you willing to bear reproach for Christ, or are there ways you are tempted to adjust your obedience in order to keep the approval of others?

God Has More to Say

True blessedness

Psalm 1
Psalm 32:1-2
Psalm 34:8-10
Luke 11:27-28

Poverty of spirit, humility, and repentance

Isaiah 57:15
Isaiah 66:1-2
Luke 18:9-14
1 Peter 5:5-7

Mourning over sin and receiving comfort

Psalm 51
Isaiah 6:1-7
Isaiah 61:1-3
Romans 7:21-25
2 Corinthians 7:8-11

Meekness and inheritance

Psalm 37:1-11
Matthew 21:1-5
Romans 4:13
Revelation 22:1-5

Hungering and thirsting for righteousness

Isaiah 55:1-3
Matthew 6:33
Philippians 3:7-11
1 John 3:1-3

Mercy, purity, and peacemaking

Psalm 24:3-6
Matthew 18:21-35
Romans 12:17-21
Ephesians 4:29-32

Persecution and faithfulness to Christ

Matthew 10:16-39
John 15:18-21
Acts 5:40-42
2 Timothy 3:10-12
1 Peter 2:19-25

Christ, the true blessed Man and King

Psalm 2
Isaiah 42:1-4
Matthew 3:13-17
Colossians 1:19-22
Hebrews 1:1-4