



Sermons of the Savior

Matthew 5:8-12

Lesson 3

The last three Beatitudes focus on the blessed being those who are pure in heart, peacemakers, and persecuted for righteousness' sake. Three "P's". Three attributes contrary to man left to himself; three attributes possible only by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Beatitudes reflect Jesus attempt to get man to see our hopelessness to be blessed without His work in our lives.

OBSERVATION: Read Matthew 5:8-12

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text.
Key Words: *God*, words that refer to *Jesus*
Underline or highlight the phrases that begin with the word *blessed*
Underline or highlight in a different way the phrases that begin with the word *for*
3. Using the phrases which you highlighted or underlined, complete the following chart:

Blessed are:	for:

CONSIDER THESE THINGS:

1. What do *peacemakers* do?
2. What do people who stir up strife do?
3. How does religious persecution in the United States differ from that in many other countries?
 - a. Why do you think American Christians suffer such minor persecution?

Read Matthew 5:8

1. Jesus could have called for *pure* actions in the next Beatitude. Instead, where is He looking for purity?
2. Jesus is calling for *purity of heart*. Yet what does Jeremiah 17:9 teach us about the *heart*?
3. Reflect on this definition of a *pure heart*: "to have a clean heart; to be unsoiled, unmixed, unpolluted; to be cleansed, purged, forgiven; to be holy; to have a single purpose, that of God's glory." Considering this definition, what is man's part and what is God's part?
4. According to the following verses, what actions/attributes reveal a *pure heart*?
Jeremiah 4:14

1 Peter 1:22

Psalm 24:4,5
5. David, a man known for being a man after God's heart, understood his short-comings. Record his prayer in Psalm 51:10.
 - a. Why is this prayer so important for us to pray?

6. What is the promise to those who are *pure in heart*?
 - a. The word *holy* perfectly describes God. The word *holy* is also used to describe something or someone set aside for God's purposes. What does Hebrews 12:14 say about *holiness*?

7. This verse concerns both our lives now and our lives in heaven. In what ways does *purity of heart* help us to see God more clearly?
 - a. How does a heart of sin dim our view of God?

8. Our view of God in this life, although glorious, is nothing compared to what is ahead for us. Record the awesome words of 1 Corinthians 13:12.
 - a. How does the fact that the *pure in heart see God*, stir you to pursue purity?

Read Matthew 5:9

1. We all want to live in *peace*, but sadly, being a *peacemaker* is the pursuit of the few. Scan the following verses and record our responsibility regarding *peace*.

Psalm 34:14, Romans 14:19, 2 Timothy 2:22, Hebrews 12:14, and 1 Peter 3:11

- a. What does *pursue peace* mean to you?
 - 1.) *Peace*, because it is a uniting of two or more parties, is not always possible. As a believer, what are some things God expects you to do when you are at odds with someone else?

2. To what extent did God go to make *peace* with you?
 - a. According to Romans 5:8, what was your condition?

 - b. How rebellious were you towards His efforts?

3. What has Christ *given/imputed* to all believers? See 2 Corinthians 5:18-19.
 - a. In what way does *not imputing trespasses* (not charging someone with their sin) show an effort to be a *peacemaker*?
 - b. *Peace* receivers should become *peace* diffusers. Why is real *peace* impossible without first receiving and understanding the *peace of God* obtained for us on the cross?
4. Read James 3:13-18 and answer the following questions:
 - a. How do we *show* that we are *wise and understanding*? verse 13
 - b. What can we know if we have *bitter envy and self-seeking in our hearts*? verses 14-16
 - c. List the attributes of one who *sows in peace*. Verses 17,18
 - 1.) How can these verses be a good indication of whether we are *peacemakers* or not?
5. What shall *peacemakers be called*? Matthew 5:9
 - a. Because true *peace* can only be offered by those who experience it, people recognize that *peacemakers* resemble their Father in Heaven, the God of *peace* (Romans 15:33). *Peacemaking* proves that we belong to God. You may not always be able to *make peace*. But, you can always extend *peace*. What are some ways to extend *peace*?

Personal: Which of those ways is most difficult for you? Why?

Read Matthew 5:10-12

1. The last of the Beatitudes speaks of those who have been *persecuted for righteousness' sake*. *Blessed* and *persecuted* are not commonly found in the same sentence. Define the word *blessed*.
 - a. Now, define the word *persecuted*.

2. According to verse 11, what forms does *persecution for righteousness* take?
 - a. Consider Jesus. How was He an example of being *persecuted for righteousness*?
 - 1.) It is Jesus, who knows *persecution* well, who is referring to those who are *persecuted* as *blessed*. What *blessing* do you think Jesus received as a result of enduring *persecution*?
 - a.) What does Hebrews 12:2 teach us about one of the reasons that Jesus endured *persecution*?
3. For whose sake are we to endure *persecution*?
 - a. Read the verse just before Hebrews 12:2. As Jesus reminded Himself of the joy of seeing you in heaven, what are we exhorted to do?
 - 1.) How does enduring *persecution* for the sake of Christ, keeping His joy ever before us, help us to not only endure *persecution*, but to choose to live/act in a way that we know will bring *persecution*?
4. The teaching of the Beatitudes began with calling us to be *poor in spirit* and to *mourn*. Yet, how does Matthew 5:12 tell us to respond to *persecution*?
 - a. What three reasons does Jesus give for this? Matthew 5:10-12
 - 1.) How does experiencing *persecution* for the sake of Christ, enable us to experience the *kingdom of heaven* in this present life?
 - 2.) It is important that we remind ourselves of rewards in heaven in times of *persecution*. Why?
 - 3.) List a few ways the *prophets* were *persecuted*.

a.) How does reflecting upon the suffering of the prophets inspire you or convict you in the area of suffering *persecution*?

b.) What was the reaction of the apostles to *persecution* in Acts 5:41,42?

REVIEW: Read Matthew 5:8-12

1. After studying this week's lesson, what did you learn about:

The pure in heart

Peacemakers

Persecution for righteousness' sake

2. Which Beatitude in this lesson do you find most challenging to walk in? Why?

3. In what ways have you been challenged to walk in a way that God will bless?

*For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels,
and then He will reward each according to his works.*

- Matthew 16:27

Observation Worksheet

Matthew 5:8-12

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.