

Bible Study 08-06-2025

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12

Title:

How do you measure righteousness? The Pharisees didn't grasp that it was a matter of the heart. They measured righteousness externally: obeying rules and regulations, praying, fasting, giving, etc. But being the Master teacher, Jesus explains to us the Christian character flows from within. **Matthew 5:20** *"For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."* Jesus opens with a blessing. Blessed is the inner joy and peace that comes with being right with God. An unspeakable joy that comes to the soul from being favored by God. That is why the scripture calls for rejoicing under intense persecution (verse 12). Scripture reminds us to count our blessings (Ps 34:1, Ps 103:1). Counting your blessings does not minimize your problem or mean that you ignore your issues. You are simply aligning your thought process with your faith. The basis for God's blessings is His love. Blessings often have both a present and a future fulfillment. If someone is blessed, the benefits are evident now or will come soon. God grants blessings according to His good pleasure. A righteous action itself can be considered a blessing, because virtue is part of its own reward. When Jesus says, *"Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed"*, (**John 20:29**), He is not advising us to believe so that we can receive a blessing. He is saying that the state of being a believer is a blessing in and of itself.

Song: Rev. Clay Evans and the Fellowship Choir, "I'm Blessed."

Matthew 5 KJV

1 *And seeing the multitudes, He went up into a mountain: and when He was set, His disciples came unto Him:*

Psalms 61:1-3 *The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified.*

2 *And He opened His mouth, and taught them saying,*

3 **Blessed** *are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Those who are living in tough situations are promised blessings from God, whether from spiritual or material poverty (lack). Poverty grinds on the human spirit and often the poor are left with no hope of relief except from The Lord. We don't even, in and of ourselves, recognize our poverty. That is a work of God's grace. It is evidence of God's work in us that we see ourselves for who we are and therefore are willing to turn to Him because He has turned our hearts toward Him. We have nothing to offer and can do nothing to cause God to act graciously on our behalf. It is all and completely of God's grace and His mercy. **Psalm 72:12** *For He shall deliver the needy when He crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper.* Note: **Matthew 19:23** Jesus told His disciples, "Verily I say unto you, that a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven." There is no entrance fee. (**Isaiah 61**; **Luke 4:18-19** Jesus' ministry delivers good news to the poor.)

4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Jesus speaks to those who mourn, or grieving, those who have a deep sense of sorrow, and loss. This may be for personal sins, a life tragedy, a heart-felt loss, etc. Yet Jesus promises they will be comforted and will find relief from their sorrow. **Psalm 34:18** *The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.* Remember Jesus' Gethsemane experience.

5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Gentleness/humility. Meekness is power under control. Only the Holy Spirit can produce meekness in the heart of a yielded Christian. **Phil. 3:7-14**

6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

From God's perspective, the poor should be protected and assisted, not victimized and oppressed. The pangs of physical hunger and thirst are reminders that no one survives without food and water. But here, Jesus is describing those who are consumed by their pursuit of righteousness, and of justice.

John 4:34 *Jesus saith unto them, "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work."* The kingdom of Heaven that Jesus represents: fulfills all our godly desires for both personal righteousness and community justice (**Isa.9:7**), the place where everyone who thirst may come and those without money may come, buy and eat. (**Isaiah 55:1,2**)

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 the children of God.

We experience God's mercy when we trust the Lord. He gives us a clean heart and peace within. But having received His mercy, we then share His mercy with others. Jesus addresses the peacemakers in His audience: those who will boldly resolve conflict, restore relationships, and avoid strife.

Romans 12:18 *If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*

Whenever you have been wronged, our Christian duty is to do right toward your enemy and leave all vengeance with God. **Philippians 1:20 NLT** *For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die.*

James 3:18 *And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.*

Peace must be pursued with deliberate effort and attention.

Our faith must reveal itself in practical good deeds. If we see someone in need and do nothing to help, "what good is that?" Practical good deeds, rolls up its sleeves and takes action.

John 15:5 *I Am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for **without** Me ye can do **nothing**.*

10 Blessed *are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

11 Blessed *are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*

Acts 13:26-28 NIV *...Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have Him executed.*

12 Rejoice, *and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.* The Beatitudes describe characteristics of people who are fervently pursuing Jesus. Living a life that brings honor and glory to God can often go unrecognized and unrewarded by society in general, leaving the godly person to wonder, "Is it worth it?" Verse 12 tells us, "Absolutely yes!" In the song lyrics of Aretha Franklin, "*You Are Never Alone, get your courage together and walk on...*".