

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

FAMILY DEVOS



The Beatitudes

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12

Memory Verse: Matthew 5:3

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

For My Family:

This series of devotionals will walk you through the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), Jesus’ longest recorded teaching. When Jesus was seated on the mountain, His disciples (followers/students) came to Him and He taught them. If we love Jesus and want to learn how to follow Him, we have to let Him speak to us. To do that, we have to go where we will hear Him (His Word), listen to what He has to say (read), and receive His instruction as He teaches us (obey). Always remember to ask God to teach you as you open His Word. Ask Him to give you a heart that is willing to receive His instruction. If you haven’t done that yet, go ahead and do so.

This first portion of Matthew 5 is known as the beatitudes (the blessings). “Blessed” could actually be translated “happy!” That may sound strange as you read through the list, but it is more than the kind happy we think of when someone tells a joke or things are really going well for us. It is a deep happiness or joy that isn’t affected by the things that happen to us or go on around us. It is rooted in who God is and the truth in His Word, and because both God and His Word are unchanging, God’s people will always be blessed and have a reason to be happy.

The beatitudes also teach us what kind of people we should desire to be. You may find yourself in more than one of these beatitudes, and you very well could find yourself in all of them. We should desire to be poor-spirited, meaning we understand that we have nothing apart from God (see John 15:5). We should be meek (humble), hunger and thirst for righteousness, be pure in heart, etc. These are to be the characteristics of the people in God’s kingdom. The religious leaders in Jesus’ day were admired for the outward display of righteousness, but in God’s kingdom, righteousness comes from within. What an amazing promise that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled!

But what about being persecuted? Does that mean I should want people to be mean to me? No, but it is a promise that you will face hardship because of your decision to follow Jesus, and when you do, you are still blessed. God wants you to remember, whenever people are mean to you because you do what’s right in obedience to Him, that the kingdom of heaven belongs to you! He wants you to know that He will give you a great reward for standing up for Him even when it was so hard to do so. Sometimes following Jesus will be really hard, but knowing God’s Word and His promises will give us strength to stand. Following Jesus is always worth it, and that will never change.

Questions for Young Children:

Who did Jesus teach the Sermon on the Mount to?

Which of these beatitudes sticks out to you the most and why? (Read through them again if they need to be reminded.)

What does it mean to be persecuted?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Which of the beatitudes sticks out to you the most? Why?

Is the blessing in verses 10 and 11 for everyone who is persecuted? Who is it specifically for and why does Jesus tell them to rejoice?

Why does Jesus want us to remember that the prophets also were persecuted?