

How to be blessed and become a blessing

A message based on the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 5:3-13

The Greek word for “blessed” appears 9 times in this passage. This word conveys the idea of happiness, but it means more than that. Happiness is a subjective feeling. The word means “blessed by God” or “receiving God’s favor”. Like the word the angel used to inform Mary that she was blessed of God or was highly favored, she had found favor with God. (Luke 1:28,30)

All people everywhere desire to be blessed and many pray for God’s blessings. In this sermon Jesus is telling His disciples how they can be blessed and become a blessing. Jesus describes in 8 steps the kind of character we should have. The first 4 steps are about our relationship to God and the second 4 steps about our relationship with others.

Step 1 “BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN” (verse 3)

Berbahagialah orang yang miskin dihadapan Allah, karena mereka yang empunya Kerajaan Sorga

There are 2 Greek words for poor. One means ‘lacking wealth’. The other, which is used here, means ‘to be in such a desperate state of poverty as to be dependent on others for support’. To be ‘poor in spirit’ means to recognize how far short we fall in relation to God’s standards that we are bankrupt and throw ourselves on the mercy of God. We can only pray with the tax collector, ‘God have mercy on me, a sinner’. Those who cry out like that Jesus says, ‘Theirs is the kingdom of heaven’. (verse 3)

Step 2 “BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN, FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED” (verse 4)

Berbahagialah orang yang berdukacita karena mereka akan dihibur.

The word ‘mourn’ means ‘to be sad’ or ‘to grieve’. Actually Jesus is not talking about mourning over someone who had died. He is talking about weeping at our poverty of spirit. To be broken-hearted about our own desperate spiritual poverty. There can be weeping of past hurts, weeping over sins, weeping over opportunities wasted, weeping over our own spiritual poverty, weeping. Jesus says when this happens to people ‘they will be comforted’. The Holy Spirit is also described as the Comforter and He comes alongside of us to bring encouragement. He assures us of forgiveness and tears turn to joy and laughter!

Step 3 “BLESSED ARE THE MEEK, FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH” (verse 5)

Berbahagialah orang yang lemah lembut karena mereka akan memiliki bumi.

The greek word for ‘meek’ does not mean weak or feeble but it means ‘gentle, considerate, broken’. Like a horse that is ‘broken’ or ‘tamed’: strength under submission. Moses is described as ‘very meek, more than all men that were on the face of the earth’. Moses was certainly not a weak leader but he was humble. When we are in this position Jesus says we will ‘inherit the earth’ (verse 5). We will be rich because God will give us everything we need.

Step 4 “BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNES, FOR THEY WILL BE FILLED” (Verse 6)

Berbahagialah orang yang lapar dan haus akan kebenaran karena mereka dipuaskan

‘Hunger’ and ‘thirst’ are words that most of us simply do not understand. The person who is really hungry or thirsty is so desperate that everything else is excluded from their desires. Jesus says that we are to have this attitude towards righteousness. The problem with many Christians is that they are not desperate for righteousness. We don’t want to pay the price. Jesus promises that those who do follow these steps will be blessed by Him.

Step 5 “BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, FOR THEY WILL SHOWN MERCY” (Verse 7)

Berbahagialah orang yang murah hatinya karena mereka akan beroleh kemurahan

First we must be merciful to those in need. We are to help those who are hungry, sick, outcast, unpopular, and lonely. Mercy will lead to practical help. Secondly we are to be merciful to those who have wronged us. This is the opposite what we are seeing all around us in the world today where revenge is the order of the day. God has forgiven us so very much so we must forgive those who have wronged us.

Step 6 “BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART, FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD” (Verse 8)

Berbahagialah orang suci hatinya karena mereka akan melihat Allah

The word ‘pure’ means ‘unmixed’ and ‘unadulterated’ like pure clean water. God is concerned about our hearts. Pure of heart mean to be honest and sincere in relation with no other motive. Jesus promises that God Himself will reveal Himself to people like that. No compromise with sin and we will ‘see’ God. Experience fellowship with God. Experience the power of God in our lives.

Step 7 “BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS, FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED THE SONS OF GOD” (Verse 9)

Berbahagialah orang yang membawa damai karena mereka akan disebut anak-anak Allah

This is actually a call for peace at 3 levels: inner peace, peace between people and most important of all, peace with God.

Through the cross it is possible to have peace with God. (Romans 5:1) ‘We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ’.

We are called to reconcile people to God in our evangelism.

We are also called to bring peace between human beings.

This is our calling as the children of God.

Step 8 “BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN” (Verse 10)

Berbahagialah orang yang dianayai oleh sebab kebenaran, karena mereka yang mempunyai Kerajaan Sorga.

Jesus never ever said, ‘Come to me and your troubles will be over’. Also Jesus never said to look for persecution, but He did say ‘to rejoice and be glad’ when persecution comes. Jesus gives 3 reasons for doing so. First, because of our reward in heaven. (verse 12). Secondly, our joy comes from identifying with Jesus. It is ‘because of me’ that we are persecuted. Thirdly, it is a sign that our faith is genuine, since the prophets were persecuted in the same way (verse 12).

Jesus tells this small group of ordinary people that if they live like that they will have an enormous influence on the world around them, and be richly blessed themselves.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD AND OBEY IT.