



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

Keys To The Blessed Life It All Depends: Who Do You Depend On?

Ps. Mike Cantrell – 10/2/2016

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matthew 5:2-12 (ESV)

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- In the South we use the expression "Bless you" many times and in many contexts. What are some of the contexts in which you have heard the expression "God bless you"? What did it mean?
- Who do you go to when you are facing a challenge or need help?
- Can you share an experience when you thought you were right – but you were actually all wrong?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at bethelbrentwood.org/media.

Probably Jesus best-known sermon is the Sermon on the Mountain (Matthew 5-7). In the first part of that sermon, Jesus preached about the blessed life. In describing the kind of person who is blessed, He repeated not one or twice, but 8 times what kind of life is a blessed life. His description of the blessed life is not the American-dream-type of blessed life, but rather the God's Kingdom blessed life.

Matthew 5:1-10 is a reflection of Jesus's value system; it details what Jesus meant by being blessed, and this is what Jesus is like. This description is in many ways opposite to our western popular idea of what it means to be blessed. As we study the keys to a blessed life, we will learn what makes a blessed life a blessed life.

1. The blessed life depends on who do you depend on.

- If you want the blessed life it is important that you know who you depend on! The beatitudes start saying "blessed are the poor in spirit." Poor in spirit are those who recognize their absolute

inability to support their own spiritual life; God blesses those who recognize that they are spiritually hopeless. You have to recognize your need for Him.

- The problem is not with God; the problem is with us. 2 Chronicles 16:9 – “[God] strengthen those whose hearts are fully focused and centered on him.”
- The problem is not in God, it is on us. God wants to bless us. His eyes are seeking throughout the whole earth looking for ways to pour out.

2. The Blessed Life is Positional, not circumstantial

- A “bless-able” life is a life that is in the Kingdom, has Kingdom values, and Kingdom priorities.
- God will not bless sin, indifference, arrogance. God resists the proud. Is your life bless-able? The blessed life starts with having a bless-able life. Put the pressure on ourselves where it belongs. A blessed life is having supernatural power working for you; a cursed life is having supernatural powers working against you. A bless-able life depends on who do you depend on.

3. The Blessed Life Depends on God’s Wisdom, not Ours:

- It really depends on who you depend on. If we depend or trust on our ideas, they will lead us to a dead end. Our feelings are deceitful. Just because you think it or feel it, it does not make it right. We may have had a big heart and a stupid head.
- Proverbs 3:5 – Trust in the Lord with all of your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do and he will show you which path to take. Don’t be impressed by your own wisdom, fear the Lord....
- How do you know if you are depending on God on a daily basis? When you are talking to God throughout your whole day and about every single aspect of your life, not only those things you consider “spiritual”. God’s wisdom will guide us concerning work, parenting, finances, relationships, or any other aspect of life.
- How do we grow in wisdom?
 - We pray, we ask God and He will give it to us generously and without reproach (James 1:5).
 - We read and meditate in God’s Word. His will is in His Word.
 - We get wise counsel; we walk in fellowship, transparency and accountability. **Isolation is the opposite of wisdom.** Proverbs 18:1 says: “Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- What adjustments do you need to make for your life to be a “bless-able” life?
- What area of your life do you need to depend and trust more in Christ than in yourself?
- What will you do to grow in wisdom?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray that God will give you a humble spirit that is positioned to be blessed.
- Pray that God will grow you in wisdom.
- Pray God will bless you in every aspect of your life.