



The Best Life

A SERIES THROUGH THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT



**LIFE
GROUPS**

WEEK 2 • FEB 15

NORTHSHERE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

Think about a person who you may not have seen for awhile, but who you just love to have around. What is it about them that you enjoy most?

BACKGROUND

In Matthew 5, 6 & 7, Jesus is giving what some have called the constitution of the kingdom of the heavens. He is answering the question of what it is like to live one's life under the kingship of Jesus.

The first point of Jesus' great sermon is that living in his kingdom is a life of ever-expanding blessing. In the Bible, to be blessed means to have one's life open up before one, to be given an expansive place wherein God overflows his goodness and grace. In the beatitudes, Jesus pronounces that those who are experiencing nine qualities of heart will indeed have the blessings of God open up upon them.

As we read, take note of how Jesus declares his kingdom blessing upon those who might least expect it.



KEY VERSES: Matthew 5:3

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

READ: Matthew 5:1-6

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?



HEAD LEVEL: *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*

1. In verses 3-6, who does Jesus say are blessed?
2. How does our normal description of the blessed or fortunate person compare with those Jesus considers blessed?
3. What blessings does Jesus pronounce on the people in verses 3-6?

DEEPER DIVE:

In Matthew 5, Jesus pronounces New Covenant blessings. In what ways are his blessings different from the Old Covenant blessings listed in the following passages?

Genesis 12:1-3

Deuteronomy 28:1-14

Psalm 34:8

Psalm 41:1

Psalm 146:5,6

Psalm 1:1-3

Under the Old Covenant, Moses pronounces blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience (See Deut 27 & 28). What does it mean to you that Jesus proclaims no curses in his New Covenant constitution, only blessings? Why do you suppose this is so? (See Galatians 3:13)



HEART LEVEL: What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God's word.

1. To be “poor in spirit” is to acknowledge our spiritual poverty, our bankruptcy before God. Why is this an indispensable condition for experiencing the kingdom of the heavens?
2. How does the Bible describe the following people who are poor in spirit?
Hannah (1 Samuel 1:10-11) / Mary (Luke 1:46-49) / Saul of Tarsus (Acts 22:6-13)
3. To “hunger and thirst for righteousness” means to long for God to express his holiness and moral excellence in our broken world. What do you find your soul longing for as you consider your own sin nature and the sins that are so readily expressed in the world around us? In what ways is just having such a desire a blessing from the Lord?



HANDS LEVEL: *What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.*

1. What would it look like to embrace your blessedness when you are feeling overlooked, sad, or unfulfilled?
2. To what extent are you receiving the blessings of God's kingdom in the here and now? What are you waiting to experience in the future?



MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 5:6

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)