



UNION TOWN  
BIBLE CHURCH

**Sermon Guide**  
**January 11: Matthew 5:1-12**

**What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?**

**Key Takeaway:**

1. Spiritual bankruptcy is the entry point to God's kingdom - We bring nothing to the table that earns us acceptance with God.
2. Mourning over sin leads to comfort - When we grieve our brokenness and the brokenness of the world, God meets us there.
3. Meekness is strength under control - Humility means using our gifts and abilities to serve others, following Jesus' example.
4. Hunger and thirst for righteousness - Our craving for God should be as desperate and undeniable as our need for food and water.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. In Matthew 5:3, what does it mean to be "poor in spirit"? How is this different from just having a bad week or feeling discouraged?
2. "Real blessing isn't when you have more. Real blessing is when you finally admit you have nothing." Why is this so difficult for us to accept?
3. Think about the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18:9-14). Which character do you naturally relate to more? Why? In what areas of your life are you still trying to hand God your resume instead of admitting your need for Him?
4. In Matthew 5:4, how is the mourning Jesus describes different from typical grief over loss?
5. Mourning over sin should produce spiritual compassion, not spiritual pride. What's the difference? When was the last time you genuinely mourned over your own sin? What about mourning over the brokenness you see in the world?

6. How can mourning over sin actually prepare us to engage with broken people rather than withdraw from them?
7. Read Matthew 5:5 and Philippians 2:3-8. How does Jesus redefine the way our culture typically views meekness?
8. Jesus is described as the ultimate example of meekness - having all power but using it to serve. What would it look like for you to practice "strength under control" this week?
9. Where in your life are you tempted to use your strength, abilities, or influence for your own benefit rather than for serving others?
10. In Matthew 5:6, Jesus uses hunger and thirst - basic, urgent, demanding needs - to describe how we should pursue righteousness. Is your pursuit of God that desperate? Why or why not?
11. What typically distracts you from hungering and thirsting for God? (Success, comfort, entertainment, busyness, etc.) "If you crave him like that, he's going to feed you." Have you experienced this? Share a time when desperately seeking God led to being filled by Him.

### **Practical Applications:**

1. Write down all the things you typically use to feel "good enough" for God (church attendance, good deeds, moral behavior, etc.) Spend time in prayer, symbolically handing this "resume" to God and confessing your spiritual poverty. Journal about what it feels like to come to God with empty hands.
2. Set aside 15 minutes to pray through Psalm 51. Ask God to show you areas of sin you've been minimizing or ignoring and then confess specifically and receive His comfort and forgiveness.
3. Identify one way you can use your strength, skills, or resources to serve someone else this week. Do this act of service without telling anyone about it (except perhaps your accountability partner).
4. Evaluate your daily schedule: What gets the most urgent attention? Create a plan to prioritize time with God that reflects the urgency of physical hunger. Consider a short fast (food, social media, entertainment) to cultivate spiritual hunger.