

#Blessed: Filing for Bankruptcy

Matthew 4:25-5:3

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1. Reading the Sermon on the Mount as if it were written directly to us, without considering its historical context, can lead to confusion and misunderstanding.
2. John clearly rebuked the religious leaders such as the Pharisees and Sadducees. He accused them of disregarding righteousness and not following God the way they should.
3. The way that people were following God was completely off the mark if they were mimicking the Pharisees. The way they followed God needed to change or they would miss the Kingdom of Heaven.
4. Jesus' sermon was meant for anyone who considered themselves one of his disciples. He spoke this to the large crowds because he was forcing Israel to make a choice – follow the Pharisees idea of righteousness or follow me.
5. Blessed is defined as being in a praiseworthy, fortunate position according to God.
6. The general crowd of Jewish people would be put off by the idea of blessings being bestowed on the lowly which is similar to how our culture would respond.
7. The beatitudes described who belonged to the Kingdom of Heaven, but it is also describing who we are.
8. The word used for poor refers to total poverty, the kind of situation that forces you to beg or starve. Jesus was referring to a spiritual poverty rather than a material one.
9. Being poor in Spirit is the belief that you're unworthy; you're spiritually bankrupt. This bankruptcy is what forces you to depend on God.

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

makários - blessed, happy, fortunate. pertaining to being especially favored, blessed, fortunate, happy, privileged, from a transcendent perspective.

“ptōchós” - poor, destitute; especially so poor that you’re dependent on others.

QUOTES

“...the Sermon on the Mount is the Messiah’s interpretation of the standard of righteousness, which the Law demanded, put in contrast with the Pharisaic interpretation of the kind of righteousness, which the Law demanded.”- **Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, Messianic Jewish Scholar**

“Macarisms are essentially commendations, congratulations, statements to the effect that a person is in a good situation, sometimes even expressions of envy” - **R.T. France**

“Makarios is a state of existence in relationship to God in which a person is “blessed” from God’s perspective even when he or she doesn’t feel happy or isn’t presently experiencing good fortune” – **Michael Wilkins**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Who does our culture say is “blessed”? Any examples you can give for where you see this?

Is there a difference between having good gifts from God and being “Blessed”?

How would you describe “blessed” to a friend? Did your understanding of it change at all because of the sermon?

What does “poor in spirit” mean? When do you try to stand on your works or your own two feet?

How can this first beatitude “Blessed are the poor in spirit”, help you in a real-life scenario today?

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Yes I Will
Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)
Way Maker
Doxology