

Monday, June 5, 2023 • Read Matthew 5:1–12

Questions from the Scripture text: What did Jesus see (v1)? Where did He go? What did He do there? Who came to Him? What did He open (v2)? To speak what kind of speech? Who are blessed in v3? In what are they poor? What is theirs? Who are blessed in v4? What will be done to them? Who are blessed in v5? How? Who are blessed in v6? For what do they hunger? What else do they do for righteousness? What will be done for them? Who are blessed in v7? What will be done for them? Who will be blessed in v8? Why—what (Whom!) will they see? Who are blessed in v9? What will they be called, of Whom? What is happening to the ones in v10? For what are they being persecuted? Why are they blessed—what do they have? Who are blessed—pay attention to the pronouns—in v11? What three things will be done to them? What has to be true about the veracity of the denouncing, for this blessing to apply? For Whose sake must this be done to them? With what two commands does v12 begin? What do they have, in what measure, and where? Who else has received both this hardship and this blessing?

What does the blessed life look like? Matthew 5:1–12 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these twelve verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the whole of the Christian's blessedness is not from himself but in and from Christ.**

It's important to note that Jesus is moving away from the multitudes and isolating Himself with His disciples (v1). Multitudes generally prefer wealth, levity, pride, feasting, self-seeking, licentiousness, resentment, and ease (basically the opposite of each of v3a, 4a, 5a, 6a, 7a, 8a, 9a, 10a, 11). But believers have something better: Christ Himself and all that comes in Him. So Jesus pulls His disciples aside from the multitudes. He sets before them their blessedness in direct opposition to that of the world.

But notice how all of these are things that are ours in Christ. Every believer is someone who has realized that, without Christ, we have nothing but poverty (v3a). But with Christ, we have the entire kingdom in Him (v3b).

If we mourn over our sin and misery and all ongoing effects of the fall, as those who hate everything that is against Christ (v4a), then we must surely be comforted in the completion of the working out of the effects of His victory (v4b).

If we do not advance our own reputation or our own interests but meekly know our place as unprofitable servants at best (v5a), we find that resting in Christ elevates us to the status of joint-heirs with Him (v5b)—even if, for a time, we suffer as we wait for the inheritance (cf. Rom 8:17).

If our hunger and thirst is for righteousness, we will be constantly hungry and thirsty (v6a)! Christ Himself will be satisfying, and we can praise God that He is completely satisfied with us in Him. But, He is not satisfied to leave us as we are, and we are not satisfied to remain as we are. Trying to live that way is a common mistake of our antinomian age.

However, here is a marvelous guarantee: we in whom the Spirit has created this hunger shall ultimately be filled. The work that He has begun in us WILL be completed (cf. Php 1:6). We WILL be conformed to Christ's image (cf. Rom 8:29–30). And even as we purify ourselves as He is pure, we are doing this precisely because we have that assured hope that we will be like Him (cf. 1John 3:2–3).

There is a marvelous freedom that comes from being resting upon Christ. We are free to show mercy (v7a), to have a single-minded pursuit of God (v8a), and to release bitterness by forgiving (v9a). In particular, the singlemindedness toward God called "purity of heart" in v8 will find its mark. "Seeing God" is that ultimate glory, that beatific vision, that we will enjoy in the day that our hunger and thirst for righteousness are satisfied (cf. 1John 3:2–3 again). We will be shown mercy (v8b), even the mercy of being adopted as children (v10b), but the greatest part of our blessing as children will be to see our Father (v9b).

So, Jesus has set before us the world-dwarfing blessedness that belongs to those who have Him. And now, we are brought back to "the world" who are the "they" in v11. The disciples can see over their shoulders the multitude down the mountain. This is no small group that is reviling and persecuting and falsely speaking all kinds of evil.

But, if this is coming to them *for the sake of Jesus*, these attacks have the exact opposite of the world's intent. For the attack themselves are reminders and verifications that they have Christ! So, the Lord commands us not only to be comforted, but a double and intensified command of celebration. Rejoice! Be glad! Indeed, be exceedingly glad! The prophets before them suffered much for the hope of Christ; now the disciples (and we!) have a clear view of Christ Himself. So, let them (and we!) rejoice exceedingly over Him!

What are some specific situations in which you are treasuring Christ instead of things or circumstances that an unbeliever would treasure? Who is attacking you for His sake, and verifying to you your identification with Him? How are you doing with the command to rejoice over this?

Sample prayer: Lord, apart from You, we are poor, miserable, lowly, and needy. But You are all our riches, happiness, exaltation, and sufficiency. Come now, we pray, in this worship service, and be all those things to us by Your Spirit, which we ask in Christ's Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP73C "Yet Constantly, I Am with You" or TPH464 "The Beatitudes"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Matthew 5 1 through 12, these are God's words. And seeing the multitudes he went up on a mountain and when he was seated, his disciples came to him. Then he opened his mouth and taught them saying. Blessed are the poor and spirit. For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed, are those the 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 filled. Blessed are the merciful For they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart. For they shall see god.

Blessed are the peacemaker, peacemakers For they shall be called, sons of god. Blessed are those Who are persecuted for righteousness sake? For theirs as the kingdom of heaven. Blessed, are you? When they? Raw value and persecute you. And say all kinds of evil against you. Falsely. For my sake.

Rejoice and be exceedingly. Glad For great is your reward in heaven. For, so they persecuted the prophets who were before you So far the reading of god's word. If you look carefully at, Verse 1 and 2, you'll See, the situation that is behind how jesus starts talking to his disciples.

In this case, The multitudes were at the base of the mountain. And jesus went up the mountain and there was a choice before them whether they would be. Uh, down with the multitudes at the base of the mountain or up on the mountain. With the lord jesus. There is i think here and intentional parallel.

To when Moses was on the mountain with god. And god revealing himself, and his glory. Um, To Moses. The one who is your way, God's merciful gracious on suffering full of grace and truth. It is the lord jesus in him. God, especially Has revealed himself and And, The sun who is the display of the triune god.

I think there's a parallel. Especially, because of The these blessings that the lord jesus immediately starts to describe. The disciples. Uh, rather than staying with

the multitudes do come. When he was seated verse. Verse 1. His disciples came to him. And so now, He has. Those who have chosen him over against the multitudes.

And maybe in a very small way at this point. And yet by the end of the passage, he makes it clear that this is not going to be a one-time decision. About. Um, where to be located on a mountain, on a particular Uh, day or Afternoon. In. Um, And Palestine, but this is Uh, this is going to be something that That is for the rest of their life.

The choice between the lord and the multitudes bluster. You When they revile and persecute you and say, All kinds of evil against you falsely. For my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly. Glad For great is your reward. In heaven. Jesus, as the reward who is in heaven. Jesus at the current moment is the reward who is at the top of the mountain?

But it is. Uh, toward heaven visually And metaphorically for them. And the reason we're having, This passage as a devotional is. Next. Lord's days morning. Sermon is going to be about laying up. Treasure in heaven. Uh, which is not just Do things that god likes, so they'll give you stuff when you die or so, they'll give you stuff at the judgment.

That would be to. Read the verse in a very fleshly way. Not the way. Uh, psalm 73 teaches us to think about Uh, him being all our treasure in heaven and him being all our treasure and earth. The treasure that you have in heaven. Can be the treasure that you have on earth if god is your treasure.

You have him in both places. And so you have christ as your treasure now and with him comes Persecutions. So, there's this. There's this choice and there's this separation. That is That bookends these 12. Versus. And he starts to talk to them about their blessedness and it's exactly the opposite.

Of what the multitudes of the world seek. What do the multitudes of the world seek? The world seeks wealth. And he said, bluster, you poor Uh, the world seeks. Uh, lightness and silliness and fun. Levity. He said, bluster those who mourn. The world seeks to be proud and exalted and admired.

He says, blessed are the meek. Below the humble. The world seeks feasting. Satisfying, the appetites of the flesh. She says, no, Blessed are those whose spirits are hungry and thirsty? For righteousness. The world. Seeks after many things and especially after self. But he says bluster, the pure in heart the single-minded And we know what their single desire is.

They're single focuses in verse 8 because he says, for they shall see god. The world seeks licentiousness.

Freedom to sin.

We seek to enjoy. God, to be pure. The world seeks. Resentment, and bitterness. And avengeful spirit. Is easily offended and doesn't let that go. But he says bluster, the peacemakers.

And so, all of the things that the world seeks, Are the opposite of the blessed ones. Because the great difference is the world does not have christ. What we have christ? If we are believers, if we are disciples. We have christ, we realize that in ourselves, we have Uh, nothing but poverty.

Weird, poor in spirit. But in christ, we have the kingdom of heaven itself. For the king is. The greatness of the kingdom.

If we mourn over our sin and misery, As those who hate everything that remains in us, that is against christ. And Everything that comes to us as a result of sin. Then we are comforted, as we think about, His kingdom coming and The certainty that has. His victory. Shall be completed.

And worked out. If we are meek not advancing our own reputation or our own interests, But view ourselves, as Profitable servants. We're humble and blowly about ourselves. Then we realize That it is christ to whom all things belong. The nation's rage and kings and peoples plot in vain. But the inheritance belongs to him.

The amazing thing, however, is that those who are kids, Are made joint heirs together with him. Joint inheritors together with So it's the miku inherit the earth. Not the nations that are raging. Or the kings. And the people who are plotting

If we are always hungry and always thirsty because we are not righteous yet, And that is the thing that we want. More than food, more than drink. To be righteous. Than we may live with the assurance. That he has begun. The work will bring it to completion. We will be conformed to god's image.

And so we purify ourselves even as he is pure. Even though we won't make it in this life, Because we shall surely make it And this life being short. And useful. Despite its brevity. In god's use of it and his providence, and his goodness, and his strength.

We know that. This hunger and thirst for righteousness will be satisfied. We will be filled. If we have christ, If we have christ, we know that all things are ours. And we are freed to be single-minded towards god. If we have christ, We know that we have peace with god already.

And we are free. Not to indulge in bitterness, not to be easily offended knowing That god has the one who Uh, To him all glory belongs. Jesus is the one to whom our glory belongs. And, And he is going to judge justly and vindicate, his servants.

So we don't have to defend. Our own honor. And we can have the sweetness and the peace that comes. From entrusting ourselves to him, and Having him. Even if we're persecuted. For righteousness sake, again. Verse 10 and verse 3, It's not just that we're poor in spirit, having nothing of our own.

And so having christ We have the kingdom of heaven. But when we are persecuted for righteousness, sake, It's a reminder that. The righteousness that is in our life, whatever it is. We're still hungry. We're still thirsty. We aren't good as we. Ought to be and yet whatever. Is there has not come from us.

Where is it come from? Let's come from the lord. And so we know that we have him already and we shall have him. The benefits of having him, we shall have fully. So verse 10 again, like verse 3, there's as a kingdom of heaven verse 3. For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Verse 10. So, to have christ just to have A blessing that dwarfs, everything that all of the multitudes desire, To have Christ is to have something to have someone who is worth. All of the suffering. That will come to us in this life. As we belong to him. It is for his sake, verse 11.

That the reviving and the persecuting and the speaking. Of all kinds of evil. Will come to those who desire to live godly. In christ, jesus. And when he says blessed are you and they When they revile you and persecute you. The text has told us. There's a multitude at the bottom of the mountain.

That they hear is not. A small group. We should expect. The whole world to be against us. In ages or places where The church's less pure. Because we know it's more or less pure and different times and different places. When ages in which the church is less, pure the church will be full of that multitude.

The persecutes Those who desire to live godly in christ jesus. And yet, if we have him, We have the heavenliness of heaven, we have Treasure. That is worthy of

glory. The great treasure of glory. And we may even have. Heavenly treasure while we are still on earth. Treasure that cannot be taken away from us in this life and will only be improved to us in the next And so let us lay up for ourselves.

The treasure that is in heaven. It's great. Our gracious gardener heavenly father, we thank you for this portion of your word. We thank you for setting christ before us As our treasure, we know lord. That in your try-in. Fellowship and love and adoration. That he is. Your treasure. From all eternity.

And we thank you. Oh god, for the amazing generosity of the gospel. That we might have you.

And so we pray that your spirit would bless the knowledge to us. And that we would live as these happy ones as these blessed ones. Who know that we have graced. And who knowing that, we have him. Know that we have everything. Forgive us of god for how often we are discouraged.

Or discontented. And give your Spirits work. To make us. So to value christ. As to quell all discouragement. And to fill us with contentment and joy. We ask it in jesus name, amen.