

THE CHARACTER GOD BLESSES

Matthew 5:3-12

God blesses righteous character

I. THE CONCEPT OF “BLESSED”

- A. HAPPINESS: Though this is too shallow, and circumstance bound
- B. JOY: A joy that has a secret within itself
- C. CELEBRATION: Oh, the thrill of ...
- D. APPROVAL: When Jesus says we are blessed it indicates that we meet God’s approval

II. CHARACTER OF PIETY (3-4, 6, 8)

- Qualities directed toward God

A. BE POOR (3)

- 1. The Response > “poor in spirit”
 - a. These realize that they have no spiritual assets, they are empty and totally helpless
 - b. Exp: The penitent publican in Luke 18:10-14
- 2. The Reward > The Kingdom of Heaven
 - Those detached from things can look toward their heavenly reward

B. BE PENITENT (4)

- 1. The Response > “those who mourn”
 - a. He grieves over his personal sin - Isaiah 6:5a
 - b. He grieves over the sins of society - Is.6:5b “
- 2. The Reward > They shall be comforted
 - God welcomes and aids the truly mournful - See Psalm 30:5 and 34:18

C. BE PASSIONATE (6)

- 1. The Response > “hunger and thirst for righteousness”
 - a. A craving or intense longing for God > Consider Psalm 42:1-2
 - b. Not just a consciousness of God (experiences, blessings, power) but a craving for godliness!
- 2. The Reward > They shall be filled
 - Those who come to the table will leave satisfied

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D. BE PURE (8)

1. The Response > “pure in heart”
 - a. Those who are unpolluted, genuine, without hypocrisy > transparent, sincere
 - b. Consider:
 - 1) What do I think about when I am not thinking?
 - 2) How do I respond to shady humor?
 - 3) Who am I when no one is looking?
 - 4) What are my motives? - See I Cor. 4:5
2. The Reward > “They shall see God”
 - Fulfilling Jesus’ prayer in John 17:15 “Father, I desire that they be with Me”

III. CHARACTER TOWARD PEOPLE (5, 7, 9)

- Qualities directed toward men

A. BE MEEK (5)

1. The Response > “blessed are the gentle”
 - a. One who does not demand his rights
 - b. One who is not ready to take offence, he is content and unassertive - See Heb. 10:34
 - c. Examples: Abraham in Gen.13:6-9 and Jesus in Matthew 21:15
2. The Reward > They shall inherit the earth
 - He realizes he will have a place in the eternal state

B. BE MERCIFUL (7)

1. The Response > “Blessed are the merciful”
 - a. This is an active and intentional kindness
 - b. A love for those who are in misery
 - c. For examples see Luke 10:30-36 and Galatians 6:10
2. The Reward > They shall obtain mercy
 - Mercy is given to those who are merciful

C. BE MEDIATING (9)

1. The Response > “Blessed are the peacemakers”
 - a. One who negotiates, encourages and reconciles > Rom.14:19
 - b. One who takes the gospel of peace to others > evangelism > Rom.10:13-15
2. The Reward > “They shall be called sons of God”
 - The one who does God’s work is welcomed into His family

III. CHARACTER AMID PERSECUTION (10-12)**A. Consider the REASON for Suffering (10-11)**

1. “For the sake of righteousness” (10)
2. “Because of Me” (11)

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B. Contemplate the REALITY of persecution (11)

1. Men will insult you
2. Men will lie about you

C. Commit to REJOICING in persecution (12)

1. Focus on the prize before you > Heaven - Note Stephen in Acts 7:54-56
2. Focus on the prophets behind you > Hebrews 12:1

V. CHARACTER IN PERSPECTIVE (Observations)**A. COMMENTS:**

1. God's approval is based on faithfulness not on favorableness
2. God's blessing is always conditioned on character
3. The Kingdom of God is not about glitter but rather about godliness

B. QUESTIONS:

1. Whose blessing (approval) are we really seeking?
2. Are we truly willing to examine ourselves by God's standards?

CONCLUSION:

Is God blessing you?

Is your character something that God can bless ?