

DISCOVERING GOD'S BLESSING

October 16, 2022 Matthew 5:1-12 by Bob Branch
The Presence of The Future, part 1

What does it mean to be blessed?

The Presence of The Future.

BIG IDEA: In Jesus, God's kingdom life (up there, out there) has come into our world now and we can find him active and present in completely unexpected ways.

Beatitudes—Latin, *beatus*, means **blessed**.

Greek, *makarios*

"wonderful news for people who are..." NT Wright

"God's favor rests upon..." Scot McKnight

"I want people to know where they can find me." Jesus

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs. "You are blessed when they insult you and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of me. Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Matthew 4:17, 23-25; 5:1-12 CSB

Where can the king-kingdom can be found?

- **Real, palpable poverty** (both spiritually & materially).
- In **pain, grief and loss**.
- In **gentle surrender**—having/grasping for nothing.
- Longing, starving for **wrong things to be set right**.
- **Not giving others what they deserve**.
- When **love for God and others dominates** our every fiber.
- **Bringing authentic reconciliation** to divided parties.
- **Rejected, abused, abandoned, unfriended, cast-out...**

What does the kingdom-come look like in these spots?

- **God's reign becomes yours**.
- **Palpable comfort and balm**.
- **What truly matters becomes valuable**.
- **Things are set right, satisfied**.
- **What you give to others, comes back to you**.
- **You begin to see God everywhere, in everything**.
- **You bear the family likeness**.
- **God's reign becomes yours, with rewards**.

"Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see." and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots..." **2 Kings 6:17**

WHAT TO DO?

1. _____ and _____ **this King**, esp. in rough spots. (Mt. 6:33)
2. _____ **into him in trusting surrender**. (1 Pet. 5:7)
3. **Lead your life by** _____ .
Your confession. (2 Cor. 9:13)