

# LIVING A *Blessed* LIFE

## Part 1 – Where The Blessing Begins Matthew 5:1-4

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*Matthew 5:1-4 Now when He saw the crowds, Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, <sup>2</sup> and Jesus began to teach them, saying: <sup>3</sup> ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.’*

### I. Introduction

- A. The word translated “blessed” is actually the Greek word “Makarios” which means “a piled up **joy** that is unaffected by the circumstances of your life.”
- B. *John 15:11 I have told you this so that My **joy** may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*
- C. The blessing of God is His **favor** upon your life. He is active in your life, meeting your needs, caring for you. He is loving you.
- D. The blessings of God don’t mean the absence of problems. Because oftentimes problems are **blessings** in disguise.

### II. TO BE GOD BLESSED WE MUST HUMBLE OURSELVES AND YIELD OUR LIVES TO GOD. (Matthew 5:3)

- A. *Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
- B. I am “spiritually poor” when my heart is filled with me and my **pride**. But, I am “poor in spirit” when I am being honest about my own **need** for God.
  - 1. *Matthew 5:3 God blesses those who...realize their need for Him... (NLT)*
  - 2. *Matthew 5:3 God blesses those...who depend only on Him. (CEV)*

3. *Matthew 5:3 You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and His rule. (MSG)*

C. *Psalm 146:5 The Lord God blesses everyone who trusts Him and depends on Him.*

D. Salvation is about emptying yourself of yourself and transferring your dependence from you for your **salvation** to God for your salvation.

E. For the Christ follower, God is trying to get us to the point that we stop trying to live our lives through scheming, manipulating and our own pride. He is trying to get us to the point of living each day of our lives fully **trusting** in God.

F. If you will turn your heart to God through His Son, Jesus Christ, He will give you a place in His family and **welcome** you into His kingdom.

G. *Isaiah 66:2 This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in **spirit**, and trembles (honors; obeys) at my word.*

### III. TO BE GOD BLESSED WE MUST GET HONEST ABOUT OUR **SINS** AND RECEIVE FORGIVENESS. (Matthew 5:4)

A. *Matthew 5:4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

B. The word Jesus used for mourn in is the strongest word for mourn in the Greek language. It means to be desperately sorry; to weep, to have a deep grief in your heart. To be **grieved** beyond words.

C. When we cover sin over, make excuses and blame others, we can't get **free** from it.

D. *Psalm 51:2-4; 15-17 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. <sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. <sup>15</sup> O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. <sup>16</sup> You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. <sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

### IV. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE HUMBLE OURSELVES TO GOD?

A. *Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

B. You can be saved and a part of the Kingdom of Heaven when you admit your own need, turn from your sin and trust in **Christ** alone for your salvation.

**Action Steps I will take...**

- \* I want to live a life that is blessed by God.
- \* I will go to the Next Step Center after the service and talk with a minister about how I can know Christ as my personal savior.
- \* I choose to empty myself of my self-centeredness and be more God dependent.
- \* I repent of my sinful choices and in brokenness humble myself before a Holy God.

*CDs and DVDs of today's sermon or previous sermons are available for purchase after the service at our Water's Edge Resource Center.*

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