

You're Blessed (Matthew 5:1:3-12)

THE WAY

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

The Beatitudes Background

Blessed - "beati" in Latin

Parallel passage in Luke 6: blessings and woes

Woes in Matthew 23

The Beatitudes Background

Isaiah 61:1-3:

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the
brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the
prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,

The Beatitudes Background

Isaiah 61:1-3:

and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of joy
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord
for the display of his splendor.

The Beatitudes Background

“Blessed”

Makarios (Greek)

Happy, blissful, fortunate, flourishing

Blessing is more about God’s activity;
Jesus blesses those whom no one else
blessed

Scot McKnight: “is someone who, because
of a heart for God, is promised and enjoys
God’s favour regardless of that person’s
status or countercultural condition.”



The Beatitudes Background

“Blessed”

Glen Stassen and David Gushee: “Jesus
was saying that we are blessed because
we are experiencing God’s reign in our
midst and will experience it yet more in
the future reign. Each Beatitude begins
with the joy, the happiness, the
blessedness, of the good news of
participation in God’s gracious
deliverance.”

“Flourishing are those...”



Walk through the blessings

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs
is the kingdom of heaven.”

“Blessed are the poor”? (Luke)

Both!

Isaiah 61: “good news to the poor” -
economically poor and spiritually
humble



Walk through the blessings

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs
is the kingdom of heaven.”

Flourishing are those who are poor who
experience the redemptive work of
Jesus Christ and flourishing are those
who align themselves with the poor
and humble themselves before God...
together we experience the kingdom
of heaven.



Walk through the blessings



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

Isaiah 61: mourning to praise

Mourning: grief over a loss

Repentance: Sinners mourn for their own sins and the sin of their community, and truly want to end their sinning and serve God



Walk through the blessings



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

Flourishing are those who mourn when injustice occurs, who grieve over their own communal participation in wrongdoing, and who sincerely repent and desire for a more just world. God comforts sincere mourning and brings about his kingdom through heartfelt repentance.



Walk through the blessings



“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”

Meek: quiet strength; humble, tamed

Scot McKnight: “those who suffer and who have been humbled, and yet they do not seek revenge but God’s glory and the welfare of others. In other words, they lovingly trust God and hope in God’s timing and God’s justice.”



Walk through the blessings



“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”

Psalm 37:11: “But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy peace and prosperity.”

Peacefulness, peacemaking, surrender to God



Walk through the blessings

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."

Flourishing are those who choose to be humble and lovingly surrender to God for they will enjoy peace in the land.



Walk through the blessings

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

Righteousness:

Justice

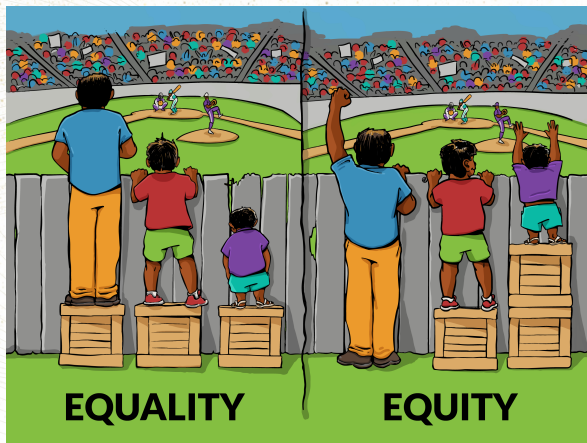
Isaiah 61: righteousness is celebrated when justice has happened - poor are cared for, prisoners are released, etc



Walk through the blessings

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

Equity



Walk through the blessings

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

Flourishing are those who hunger and thirst for everyone to have exactly what they need to be filled and flourish. Only when we all have what we need to flourish will we all be satisfied.



Walk through the blessings

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

Merciful: generous in doing deeds of deliverance; action

Matthew 23: woe to the Pharisees, neglected "justice, mercy, and faithfulness" (v.23)



Walk through the blessings

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

Scot McKnight: "merciful" as "those who, because they do to others as they would want done to themselves and because they have experienced God's merciful love, empathize and show compassion to others. Inherent in works of mercy is the self-denying virtue of entering into the injustices and tragedies experienced by others."



Walk through the blessings

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

Flourishing are those who are compassionate and aligned with God's heart for the oppressed, and moved toward actions of justice and mercy for they too will receive compassion and love in return.



Walk through the blessings

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

Expressed in outward action toward another

Love

Love God and love people

Flourishing are the ones who surrender to God's love, who receive God's love, and who love others as God loves them.



Walk through the blessings

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

Peacemaker - decisive action

Context: Jewish Zealots, used violence, 'sons of God'

Peacemaking: seeking justice through reconciliation, not retaliation.

Flourishing are those who make peace, love their enemies, choose paths of non-violent resistance, and show God's love to all.



Walk through the blessings

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me."



Walk through the blessings

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Seeking and enacting justice

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me."

Kinds of suffering one might experience; question power



Walk through the blessings

Flourishing are those who are committed to the way of justice, love, and compassion, even when that becomes a difficult path to follow.



Takeaways

Listen and be blessed

The blessings implies a picture of life that we should strive for



Takeaways

We are to align ourselves with the poor as well as humble ourselves before God.

We are to mourn when injustice occurs, grieve over our own communal participation in wrongdoing, and sincerely repent and desire for a more just world.

We are to choose to be humble and lovingly surrender to God

We are to hunger and thirst for everyone to have exactly what they need to be filled and flourish, recognizing that only when we all have what we need to flourish will we all be satisfied.



Takeaways

We are to align our heart with God's heart for the oppressed and move toward actions of justice and mercy.

We are to surrender to God's love, receive God's love, and love others as God loves them.

We are to make peace, love our enemies, choose paths of non-violent resistance, and show God's love to all.

We are to commit to the way of justice, love and compassion, even when that becomes a difficult path to follow.

