

Series: The Beatitudes from Genesis to Revelation

Sermon Text: Matthew 5:1-12; Revelation 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14

The Unity of “Blessed are” in God's Eternal Plan

We use the word blessed in different meanings and context depending on the significance of the occasion. What if the “blessings” Jesus spoke on a hillside in Galilee are still being spoken right now. Not as distant echoes but as living words from the throne of God. We’ve learned a lot about these blessings - the Beatitudes over the last several weeks. I wanted to recap the meaning, context and significance for the sake of our talk this morning.

- **Meaning:** It means being fortunate, happy, implying even a state of flourishing and inner joy that is independent of our external circumstances.
- **Context:** In context of the Beatitudes, it specifically refers to a blessedness and happiness that comes from God's grace and favor as we experience living a hard life together in a sinful world.
- **Significance:** It describes the state of being "approved by God" and experiencing the "deeper joy" of his heavenly kingdom.

Today, our goal is to explore the beautiful unity of Beatitude spoken by Jesus in Matthew and when we hear them again from the throne in the Book of Revelation. I don't believe them necessarily to be two separate sets of promises but to serve two distinct purposes. Both the eternal Word of God, unfolding from eternity past into eternity future. They reveal the heart of God and the character of a people He has chosen for Himself and also our...

BIG IDEA: The Beatitudes are Eternal and Create an Unbreakable Chain in Time.

The character of beatitude is forged in eternity past and it’s part of the essence of Christ’s character before they are ever spoken by Jesus in the Beatitudes of Matthew and spoken again from the throne in the Beatitudes of Revelation. Together, forming a single unbreakable chain that transforms us into the image of Christ and carries us safely from the poverty of this broken world all the way into the glory and riches of the new creation. This brings us to **point #1: The Beatitudes are the Essence of Eternity Past.** Before the first “*blessed are*” words were spoken - before the

foundations of the world - God foreknew and foreloved a people for Himself. He sovereignly chose us in Christ, predestined us to be conformed to the image of His Son, who determined to give His life for us while we were still His enemies as Paul laid out in Ephesians 1:4–5 and Romans 8:28–30. The Beatitudes are not Plan B; they are the very character of the eternal plan from before the beginning of creation.

Imagine you create something with your own hands. Before it ever exists in finished form, you already know it intimately - because it is part of you. Don't think of that T-Bucket you've been planning in your mind. Is it fully built and exist in your shop? But you already know every wire, every hose, every nut and bolt. You can see exactly how it will look, how it will run, how it will handle the road. You know its character. And because you know it so well, you love it even before it's complete. Is that close to accurate? When you bring something into existence, you don't just create it, you take responsibility for it. You care about its wellbeing, its growth, its character, what will impact it, and the impact it will have. Now picture this: What if someone stole your creation, Michael, your song, John, your design and claimed it as their own, twisted and mutated it until its original beauty and identity became unrecognizable? Guys, how would that make you feel? That's something like what happened with God's good creation when Satan convinced Adam and Eve to rebel against God and sin entered them and the world, it was mutated into something else.

Here is the essence of it: Before God ever brought humanity into existence, He already knew us intimately, every detail, from beginning to end. Like a loving parent who decides even before their child is born that they would willingly lay down their life to save them, our God foreknew and foreloved a people for Himself. He didn't wait to see how we would turn out or who would believe or not. He took the initiative. God's love moved first! God's heart and His love is the very essence and character that the Beatitudes describe: While we were still lost in rebellion, enemies of God, defined by our sin and even blaming Him for our guilt, God the Son died for the ungodly. He reconciled us to God the Father and through God the Holy Spirit, restored us to the grace of a parent-child relationship with Him.

As Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works,

so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork (His Masterpiece), created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." The Beatitudes are the living expression of God's eternal plan, the character of a people He foreknew, foreloved, and determined to conform us to the image of His Son so that He would be the first born of an entirely new creation. So, consider this: "How does knowing what God had planned for us from eternity past bring hope into your life and present trials?"

This brings us to **point #2: The Expression of Beatitude Broke into Our Time.** The eternal Word became flesh and dwelt among us in real time. It no longer came from a cloud but sat on a hillside in Galilee as Jesus perfectly embodied the character of heaven. He opened His mouth and declared the essence of Beatitude or the HAPPY inner life of the people He had already chosen. He said: "*Blessed are the poor in spirit, mourn, meek, hungering for righteousness, merciful, pure in heart, peacemaker, persecuted.*" All these things just feel so hard, and on top of that, it seems God the Father is pleased in all this because Isaiah 53:10 tells us that "*it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief.*" Perhaps your mind wraps all this up in a tidy, happy rhythm but it took some work for mine. What I realized after wrestling with the root words is that God delights in the accomplishment, not the pain and suffering. Imagine a father who "*delights*" in paying a ransom of everything he has to free his kidnapped child; he despises the cost of it all, but he "*delights*" in the act because it brings his child home. God takes pleasure in His sovereign commitment which Paul laid out in Romans 8:28-32. He looked at the "*crushing*" of His Son and saw the "*fragrant offering*" of justice being satisfied. He was "*pleased*" because He saw you being brought into righteousness and being glorified.

This helps us understand how Jesus can say that we are blessed during things (or in situations) that feel so hard. You are "happy" not because your life is easy, but because your "*inner condition*" has been rearranged by the Spirit. You have a "*view from the gates of heaven*" even while walking through the valley of the shadow of death. So, I asked myself this question and thought I'd ask you: "How does knowing that you are intentionally chosen for God's favor reshape your inner perspective"

when life is hard or in crisis or unfair?" Here's how it changes or helps me: It's a hard, rebellious and sometimes painful world. My poor attitude often makes my attitude of beatitude feel like a here today gone tomorrow feeling but it's not, it's a solid, unshakable, unbreakable chain of reality within me that I know God made with me through a New Covenant in Christ. This day-by-day confidence of being approved by God, experiencing the beatitude - the deeper joy - of His Kingdom (with YOU) - this steady joy helps line my heart up with God. It makes it easier for God to do His work in me as we're waiting for Jesus to come back. And!! We have a mission, this inner happiness, this attitude of beatitude is built right into our relationship with God through Jesus. His favor keeps us moving and sticking to that mission. For me it's the "why" Jesus can't be just for me - He's for everyone because HAPPINESS (what Jesus called blessedness) has to be shared to experience it.

This brings us to **point #3: The Expression of Beatitude Extend into Eternity Future**. What began in eternity past and broke into time reaches its full harvest in the Book of Revelation. There the exalted King speaks Beatitudes again, not as new rewards we gotta earn, but like we are reaping what He sowed into creation. These words call and inspire us to persevere as overcomers and declare that every promise first spoken in Matthew is now "Yes" and "Amen" in the new creation started by His resurrection (Revelation 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14). In the Beatitudes, Jesus unveils the inner life of those after God's own heart. The poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek, and the persecuted are not following rules to earn a Kingdom; they are displaying the natural fruit or the promised blessing of a life transformed into the likeness of the Son. Jesus modeled what it looked like to embrace this character by faith.

While Matthew's beatitudes describe our counter-cultural character to live in a hostile world, Revelation's beatitudes emphasize the perseverance and culture of victory for the same people He chose from the beginning. Tim says: "*It seems like Revelation is unveiling that to live for and like Jesus is worth the effort on our part, because it produces the results that we have been hoping for our entire lives.*" These results aren't rewards for "*superior performance,*" but the certain outcome for a people already secured in Christ. Whether for the elderly saint finishing the race or

the infant carried home early, the pleasure of the divine of Romans 8 holds firm. So, Matthew gives us the Seed: The inner character of the Kingdom now; and Revelation gives us the Harvest: The final triumph of overcomers. The same Jesus who “*learned discipline*” and perfectly embodied these Beatitudes in the poverty of humanity, who spoke them in real time from a hillside in Galilee, now speaks them from the throne. He transformed the Law from a list of “*thou shalt not*” into a rhythmic, living pattern of the beatitudes.

So let this truth sink deep into your heart: The blessings Jesus first spoke in Galilee are not distant promises. They are living realities shaping who we are becoming - together. As a church family, we are generations walking side by side becoming more like Jesus. By opening our lives during the hard seasons, we allow the body of Christ to move from being a group of people who simply sit together on Sunday to a family that actually heals together every day. Since we’re all being woven into the same Unbreakable Chain of Grace, “*Who in your life might need to see your heart in your unblest moments so they can finally find the courage to share theirs? And what could the benefits be of letting other believers into those moments that we don’t feel blessed?*”

If Matthew reveals the blessedness of walking the kingdom way with the heart of our Servant King, then Revelation reveals the blessedness of finishing that walk and inheriting all that belongs to our exalted King of Kings. These blessings declare the “*already*” of God’s eternal decree meeting the “*not yet*” of our future glory. The essence of the beatitudes is the mind-blowing beauty of God’s pleasing plan from eternity past to eternity future. In Eden, blessing was lost through disobedience. In Matthew, blessing was announced through the Servant King. In Revelation, blessing has been fulfilled by the Exalted King. The blessings spoken in Galilee are not left behind; in Revelation they are fulfilled, perfected, and eternally secured. We’ll talk more about this next week and also about why the Revelation Beatitudes land with such power. For now remember, wherever you are on your journey of trusting Christ, you need not work through anything alone. Reach out, and let’s help each other!

Sunday to Monday Connection: The Beatitudes aren't just a list of blessings. They are the unbroken thread of God's eternal plan to shape us into the image of His Son. So, when life feels hard, remember: your "blessedness" isn't based on circumstances but on God's unchanging purpose. He is forming something eternal in you, an unbreakable chain from grace to glory.

- **Question:** Where is God calling you to trust that His eternal work is still unfolding in you, even when life feels anything but "blessed"?
- **Next Step:** Get with some trusted people and share stories about how walking with Jesus has shaped your responses to difficult people and situations.
- **Note:** If you are not a Christ follower and would like to investigate further what all this might mean for you, please come talk with any of our leaders, or the person who brought you.

Takeaways to discuss with your people (in addition to the underlined questions above!):

Quotes related to this passage:

Considerations for discussion leaders:

1. Keep circling back to the big idea and main points of the passage to stay on track.
2. Keep the group small for deeper sharing. Single underlined sentences are for discussion, while key points are double underlined.
3. Keep the discussion around 30 mins. Once you hit the "sweet spot", spend your time there.
4. Keep these simple questions in your back pocket: What is God teaching you? What are you going to do about it? How will it help you love & serve others?

Other Articles/Songs/Videos: Please ask us for help obtaining other resources.

- [5 Strategies for Reading Revelation](#) from the Bible Project (the first 17 minutes is GOLD!)
- [Heaven and Earth Theme](#) from the Bible Project
- [Other super helpful Revelation summaries](#) from the Bible Project
- [How Revelation mimics ancient Olympic games](#) by Marty Solomon

Bibliography (Note: Our use of these materials does not imply full agreement with them)

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