



Go for God!

“Blessed Are You!”

> STEPS TO BE BLESSED:

Step #1 – BLESS THE LORD! - Psalm 103

Step #2 – BE BLESSED! BE A BLESSING! (Matthew 5:1-16):

- In **Matthew 5:1-11** the word *blessed* is found nine times, in Greek it is *makarios*, which means *blessed* or *happy*. Let's discover the conditions of true *happiness* and its *reward*:

(v3) “Blessed are the poor in spirit” – To be *poor in spirit* is to have a humble heart, which is the opposite of pride. Humility is the foundation for salvation and a lifestyle that brings happiness to all!

(v4) “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” – Paul writes in **2 Cor 7:10** - *For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.* This mourning leads to repentance and conversion.

(v5) “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth” – *Meekness* is an attitude of humility toward God and gentleness toward men, springing from a recognition that God is in control.

(v6) “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled” - Daily we hunger and thirst, yet Christ says we are to hunger and thirst for *righteousness*! If we do this we will be *blessed* (happy) and *filled* (satisfied). The word *righteousness* is found 323 times in the Bible, let's look at a few:

- ***Believe unto righteousness!*** - **Rom 10:9-10** - *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

- ***Live unto righteousness!*** - **Rom 14:17-18** - *for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.*

- ***Awake unto righteousness!*** – **1 Cor. 15:34** – *Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.*

- ***The blessings of righteousness!*** - **Matt 6:33-34** - *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

- ***Suffering for righteousness!*** - **1 Peter 3:14** - *But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed.*

- ***The proof of righteousness!*** - **1 John 2:29** - *If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.*

- ***The hope of righteousness!*** - **2 Peter 3:13** - *Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

(v7) ***“Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy”*** - “Mercy” is a distinctive Bible word characterizing God as revealed to men.

(v8) ***“Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God”*** - The “heart” is the laboratory and origin of all that is good and evil in thoughts, words, and deeds according to **Mark 7:21-23** - *“For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man unclean.”*

- **The process of heart-renewal begins with:**

(1) The removal of a ***“stony heart”*** (Ezek 11:19).

(2) Pray that your heart will become ***“clean”*** (Ps 51:10 - *Create in me a pure heart, O God,*).

(3) ***“Fixed”*** (Ps 112:7 - *He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.*).

(v9) ***“Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God”*** - As all men are represented to be in a state of hostility to God and each other, the Gospel is called the ***“gospel of peace,”*** because it reconciles men to God and to each other. Hence, our Lord here terms ***peace-makers***, the ***children of God***: for as he is the Father of peace, those who promote it are reputed his children. In **James 3:17-18** it says, *“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”*

(v10-12) These verses deal with the topic of ***persecution*** and offers a double

“blessed” plus “rewards!” - “Our responsibility is not to seek out persecution, but to be willing to endure whatever trouble our faithfulness to Jesus Christ may bring, and to see it as a confirmation of true salvation.”

(v13-16) ***“YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH AND THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!”*** – Salt purifies and preserves! Light is active, attractive, affects everyone and everything!

BE BLESSED! BE A BLESSING!