

TITLE AND NUMBER: 117. We are blessed!



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Matthew 5:1-10

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

LOOKING FURTHER: Matthew 5:1-16; 43-48; Proverbs 28:1

What does this Bible passage tell us?

In this passage, Jesus, at the beginning of His ministry, painted a clear picture of what His Kingdom is like, and that those who follow Him are blessed. These words are sometimes called the beatitudes.

Jesus described what might seem to us to be an upside down world. For instance, being "poor in spirit" (being humble and without spiritual arrogance) is a good thing.

Jesus wants His followers to know that some things that are looked down upon by society are part of being followers of Christ. Sadness (or mourning) over wrongdoing can become relief when we are forgiven by God. When our heart and thoughts are in the right place, naturally we are drawn to God's presence. When we do wrong we can be anxious with guilt, ready to run off, even when no one is after us.

We are called to be peacemakers, people who show mercy and have compassion for others. When we do this, we will find that we are blessed and are able to bless others.

BLESSED

Reflections:

- Read Matthew 5:1-10 carefully again and list the blessings Jesus promised His followers. You too can have them.
- These blessings may not come as quickly as we would like. Pray that God will give you the patience that may be required to see them in your life.
- Are you feeling anxious about issues in your life? Make the start of 2023 an opportunity to resolve them or at least make a start. Ask for help if you need it.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

