

The Bulletin

Meeks Street Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834
Phone – (662) 808-7777

Visit Our Website at:
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

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“The Beatitudes Of Christ”

By Mark Mayberry

Eight declarations of blessedness are found at the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:1-12). The Greek word translated "blessed" refers to one who enjoys spiritual well-being and prosperity. Happy are those who enjoy divine blessing in the here and hereafter.



Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

Jesus said, *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* The Greek word translated "poor" is descriptive of an individual who crouches and cowers, hence, one who is beggarly or poor. It can refer to one who is economically disadvantaged, and also, figuratively, to one who humbly recognizes his dependence upon God. The New Testament employs the term in both its physical (Rom. 15:26-27) and spiritual usage (Rev. 3:17). It correlates with the concept of modest self-effacement (Isa. 57:15; Mic. 6:8).

Blessed Are Those Who Mourn

Jesus said, *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."* The Greek word translated "mourn" means to experience sadness as the result of some condition or circumstance, to grieve or lament. Such mourning may occur over the loss of loved ones (Mark 16:10), or sad circumstances involving sin (1 Cor. 5:1-2; James 4:8-10).

Blessed Are the Gentle

Jesus said, *"Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth."* The Greek word translated "gentle" signifies not being overly impressed by a sense of one's self-importance, but rather manifesting a gentle or meek spirit. Jesus exemplifies this quality (Matt. 11:28-30; 21:1-5), and so also should we (1 Peter 3:1-4; cf. Ephesians 4:1-3).

Blessed Are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

Jesus said, *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."* The Greek word translated "hunger" means to feel the pangs of lack of food, or to strongly desire something. In Scripture, it refers to physical hunger (Matt. 12:1-2; 25:34-36) and also spiritual longing for the bread that comes out of heaven and the water of life (John 4:13-14; 6:30-35).

Blessed are the Merciful

Jesus said, *"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."* The Greek word translated "merciful" pertains to being concerned about people in their time of need, i.e., showing pity or mercy, being sympathetic or compassionate. As Jesus manifests mercy on mankind (Matt. 9:27-31; Hebrews 2:14-18), we should be compassionate to one another (Matt. 18:21-35; cf. Luke 12:33-34).

Blessed Are the Pure in Heart

Jesus said, "*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*" The Greek word translated "pure" means to be clean or free of adulterating matter, i.e., to be free of moral guilt or sin. As in the preceding beatitudes, this word refers to physical cleanliness (Matt. 27:57-60; John 13:5-11) and also spiritual purity (Matt. 23:25-26; 2 Tim. 2:20-22).

Blessed Are the Peacemakers

Jesus said, "*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*" The Greek word translated "peacemakers" refers to one who attempts to reconcile individuals who are alienated or estranged from one another. Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6), calls us to live according to the principles of peace (Psalm 34:12-14; Romans 12:14-21).

Blessed Are Those Who Have Been Persecuted for the Sake of Righteousness

Jesus said, "*Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*" The Greek word translated "persecuted" means to put to flight, pursue, by implication, to persecute. As our Lord was persecuted (Luke 11:45-54; John 15:18-20), we will experience similar mistreatment if we are faithful to His precepts (Matt. 5:10-12; 2 Tim. 3:10-17).

Conclusion

Note the blessings contained in the beatitudes: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

(Truth Magazine, Jan. 2015).

What Are You Worth?

By Tanner Bass

A very simple statement that can be under-appreciated and overlooked is this, "God is the creator of all things." We may say this often, or hear it often to some degree, but do we really stop and think about its significance? God has created us all and provided us life (Gen. 2:7). He has created the heavens and the earth (Gen. 1:1), light (Gen. 1:3), day and night (Gen. 1:5), wet land and dry (Gen. 1:9), along with everything in this life. With all that God has done for us, the question is introduced, "If He has made all things, how valuable am I then, just another human?" This question can be answered by the Word of God.

Put simply, what is each person worth in the eyes of God? Firstly, each one is worth enough to God that He would send His only Son down from the glories of heaven to live as man and die for each individual. God deemed that each person's soul is worth the death of His Son, as well as the hope we have that came through His death. No dollar amount can be put on the worth of an individual's soul (Matt. 16:26), but what we see from Christ's sacrifice on the cross is that the worth of each person in God's perspective is significantly high. Enough so, in fact, that Christ died for us.

What else are we, as humans, worth? Another way this question can be answered is by looking at the rest of God's own creation. Matthew 6:26 tells us that we are of much more value than the rest of God's creation here on earth, because He has provided for us an immortal soul, as well as a plan of redemption to be saved from our past sins. Of all of God's creation here on earth, we are at the top. While every animal and human both have blood to sustain us, and a heart too, only humans contain an immortal soul, and eternal life will only be for mankind. In the final analysis, our immortal soul is all we have (Ecclesiastes 5:15-16; 12:7). How valuable is that?

A great example of a man who could have considered himself less valuable because of his actions in persecuting the church is Paul. Paul, despite persecuting Christ's own church, finally came to the conclusion that God saw worth in him, even though he did things hostile to God and His purpose (1 Tim. 1:12-13). Self-depreciation can potentially be a problem, especially after considering one's own sinful ways. Rather than having low self-esteem and no appreciation of your individual worth, let us be like Paul, who glorified and honored God in acknowledgment and appreciation of his worth.

Let us also see from this point that God sees value, worth, and potential in us all, no matter who we are or where we have come from! What a blessing that is to know!

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Sam Johnson, J F Dancer, Robbie, Sheila, and Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Nathan Cox, Sandra Oliver, Brandon Briggs, Jimmy Briggs, Chad Harris, Randy Ferrell (Brandi's brother in law), Eli Johnson, Burt Ward, Wayne Bivens (recovering from double by-pass) Ricky Doles, and Jamie Jones.

Danny Cottrell has an upcoming surgery in March.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Tim Harris Jr.
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	<i>"Finally, My Brethren..."</i>
<u>Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:</u>	Jerry Kennemur
Workbook:	Philippians
Author:	Paul R. Blake
Starting Page & Question:	<i>Page #65, Question #9</i>

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Doug George
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Danny Sheffield
Scripture Reading:	<i>Mark 8:10-13</i>
Song Leader:	Paul Busby
Lord's Supper:	Jerry Kennemur
Assisting:	— —
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #2:	<i>"The Power Of Saying No"</i>
Closing Prayer:	Fred Johnson

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

February 15th:

Auditorium Bible Class:	Paul Johnson
Workbook:	The Miracles Of Jesus
Author:	Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question:	<i>Page #74, Question #11</i>
Invitation:	Paul Johnson
Song Leader:	Tim Harris Sr.
Closing Prayer:	Blake Briggs



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“Finally, My Brethren...”

Lesson Text: **Ephesians 6:10.**

I. 2 Corinthians 13:11.

“Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.”

Notes: _____.

II. Philippians 3:1.

“Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.”

Notes: _____.

III. Philippians 4:8.

“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.”

Notes: _____.

IV. 1 Thessalonians 4:1.

“Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.”

Notes: _____.

V. 2 Thessalonians 3:1.

“Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified,
just as it did also with you;”

Notes: _____.

VI. 1 Peter 3:8.

“Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers,
be tenderhearted, be courteous;”

Notes: _____.

“The Power Of Saying No!”

Lesson Text: **Mark 8:10-13.**

Definition of NO: “A negative used to express dissent, denial, or refusal, as in response to a question or request.”

I. Men Who Did Not Say No:

- Esau in **Genesis 25:29-34.**
- Aaron in **Exodus 32:1-5.**
- Balaam in **Numbers 22:12-19.**
- Samson in **Judges 16:4-21.**
- King Herod **Acts 12:20-24.**

II. Men Who Did Say No:

- Naboth in **1 Kings 21:1-4.**
- Daniel in **Daniel 1:8.**
- Shadrach, Meshach, And Abed-nego in **Daniel 3:14-18.**
- Nehemiah in **6:1-4; 5-9.**
- Paul in **Galatians 2:3-5.**
- An Angel In **Revelation 22:8-9.**

III. Times In Life We Have To Say No.

- To Satan’s Desires And Temptations.
 - Like Jesus Said No In **Matthew 4:1-11.**
 - **James 4:7-8; James 1:12 Versus 1:14-15.**
- To Our Friends, Family, And Peers In Doing Wrong.
 - **Proverbs 4:16-18; 1 Corinthians 15:33; Exodus 23:2.**
 - **Matthew 10:37.**
- To Spoiled Children Who Want Everything.
 - **Proverbs 29:15.**
 - **1 Kings 1:5-10.**
- To False Teachers And Their Doctrine.
 - **2 John 10-11.**
 - **1 John 4:1.**

IV. How Do We Say No?

- Learn To Courageously Say “No.” **1 Corinthians 16:13.**
- By Having Strong Convictions For Truth. **Jude 1:3; Philippians 1:17.**
- Don’t Seek To Please Others, But Seek To Please God. **Galatians 1:10.**
- Say It With Love & Concern For Others— Not Arrogantly Or Un-lovingly **Eph. 4:15**