



Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

" \_\_\_\_\_ are the..." (Matt 5:1-3)

### **"Blessed"? What Does That Mean?**

"Blessed" is the first word in the first \_\_\_\_\_ sentences of Jesus' sermon. Clearly, he wants to draw our attention to a very important point. But what is that point?

"Blessed" in the Bible isn't the same thing as " \_\_\_\_\_." Being a "blessed" person doesn't depend on all of the circumstances and situations of my life being exactly the way I want. Instead, think of being "blessed" in the way Jesus described a servant in Matthew 25:21: " \_\_\_\_\_, good and faithful servant." A "blessed" person is someone God looks at and says, "Well done. That's what I'm looking for. He is on the right track. She is following my lead." The "blessed" person is living God's way because their heart has been aligned with God and their character is bearing fruit that honors God.

### **The Character of a Disciple**

So what does it look like to have a heart aligned with God and a character that honors him?

"Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_ in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who \_\_\_\_\_, for they shall be comforted.

"Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_, for they shall inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for \_\_\_\_\_, for they shall be satisfied.

"Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_, for they shall receive mercy.

"Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_ in heart, for they shall see God.

"Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_, for they shall be called sons of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on \_\_\_\_\_ account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Jesus has certainly given us a lot to think about and discuss together, so let's dig in...



# For Class & Family Discussion:

1. Matthew 5 isn't the first time we hear this "blessed" language from God. To help us more fully understand what God means by that word, check out Psalm 1:1-3. In your own words, what does it mean to be "blessed"?
2. Let's work our way through these "blessed" statements Jesus uses as the introduction to his sermon. Why does God look at this person and say, "Well done?" How has his heart been aligned with God? In what way is her character bearing fruit that honors God? And as a result, how is God going to bless them?
  - "Blessed are the poor in spirit" -
  - "Blessed are those who mourn" -
  - "Blessed are the meek" -
  - "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness" -
  - "Blessed are the merciful" -
  - "Blessed are the pure in heart" -
  - "Blessed are the peacemakers" -
  - "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake" -
3. What might it look like to live with the character of a disciple this week? Where are the opportunities? Where are the challenges? Will it be worth it? Why?