

WORD ALIVE: HOW TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE

Matthew 5:6–12 | The Beatitudes, Part 2

Letting the Beatitudes Examine Our Hearts

The Higher Pursuit Livestream & Podcast

THE BIG IDEA

The Beatitudes are a roadmap of righteousness.

Righteousness: Being in right standing with God and living according to His standards.

Jesus begins with **who we are becoming on the inside, not religious performance on the outside.**

Kingdom righteousness works **from the inside out.**

As you study today, don't only ask:

"What does this mean?"

Also ask:

"Holy Spirit, what does this reveal about me?"

1. HUNGER & THIRST

Matthew 5:6

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."

Our spiritual appetites are affected by what we continually choose to feed.

Whatever hunger you continually feed will grow.

Whatever hunger you continually neglect will diminish.

Sometimes the things competing with our hunger for God aren't sinful things. They can be good things:

- Responsibilities
- Deadlines
- Goals

- Success
- Ministry
- Even something God has called us to do

The question isn't simply:

"Am I hungry for God?"

Ask:

"What hunger am I feeding?"

If your hunger for the Lord has diminished, **return to your First Love.**

Confess it. Bring it under the blood of Jesus. Begin again. Ask the Holy Spirit to restore your joy, fuel your passion, and give you fresh vision.

Additional Scriptures:

John 6:35

Psalm 42:1

HEART CHECK

What has been occupying my appetite lately?

Is what I'm feeding increasing or diminishing my hunger for the Lord?

2. MERCY

Matthew 5:7

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."

MERCY — CHESED

Loving-kindness • Mercy • Compassion • Goodness • Love • Loving devotion

In Exodus 34:6–7, God reveals His own nature as compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving devotion and faithfulness.

God's mercy isn't simply a one-time gesture when we fail.

Mercy is part of who He is.

He has chosen to be lovingly devoted to His people.

RECEIVING MERCY CHANGES HOW WE GIVE MERCY

In Matthew 18:21–35, Jesus tells the story of a servant who was forgiven an enormous debt but then refused to extend mercy to someone who owed him much less.

We extend mercy because we live every day as recipients of God's loving devotion.

Sometimes the "payment" we're demanding isn't money.

"You owe me an apology."

"You owe me an explanation."

"You owe me recognition."

"You owe me for what you did to me."

Additional Scriptures:

Exodus 34:6–7

Micah 6:8

Matthew 18:21–35

HEART CHECK

Is there someone I'm demanding payment from for a debt God is asking me to release?

3. PURE IN HEART

Matthew 5:8

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

PURE — KATHAROS

Pure • Clean • Clear • Without mixture

The question isn't whether we can manufacture enough purity to make ourselves acceptable to God.

In Christ, we have been made new.

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."

— 2 Corinthians 5:17

Purity isn't an identity we're trying to earn.

We're learning to live consistently with the new identity Christ has already given us.

But we should still allow the Holy Spirit to reveal areas where "mixture" has entered our hearts.

- Faith mixed with unbelief
- Obedience mixed with self-interest
- Ministry mixed with a need for recognition
- Love for God mixed with a desire for people's approval
- Generosity mixed with expecting something in return

Additional Scripture:

2 Corinthians 5:17, 21

HEART CHECK

Where has mixture entered my heart?

Is there an area where my motives need to become pure again?

4. PEACEMAKERS

Matthew 5:9

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God."

Children should reflect the character of their Father.

Our Father is a peacemaker.

Jesus came to reconcile us to God. He broke down the dividing wall, paid the debt we owed, restored our ability to have communion with God, and continues to be our Advocate.

PEACEKEEPING ≠ PEACEMAKING

A peacekeeper may avoid conflict.

A peacemaker is willing to enter conflict in order to pursue reconciliation.

Jesus wasn't afraid of confrontation. He spoke truth, exposed sin, forgave, restored, and ultimately laid down His life to reconcile us to God.

Biblical peacemaking isn't simply:

"Keep everybody happy."

A better question is:

"What would reconciliation require of me?"

Maybe it means going directly to someone instead of talking about them.

Maybe it means listening instead of defending yourself.

Maybe it means admitting you were wrong.

Maybe it means forgiving.

Maybe it means speaking truth in love.

HEART CHECK

Where is God asking me to pursue reconciliation rather than simply avoid conflict?

5. PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Matthew 5:10–12

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

Jesus tells His followers that they will sometimes experience rejection and persecution **"on My account."**

Following Jesus will sometimes cost us something.

Not because Christians are called to be offensive.

Not because every disagreement is persecution.

But because allegiance to Jesus will eventually put us at odds with values that oppose His Kingdom.

Additional Scripture:

2 Timothy 3:12

HEART CHECK

Is there anywhere I'm editing my obedience because I'm afraid of what following Jesus might cost me?

THE BEATITUDES HEART CHECK

Take these questions into the Secret Place this week.

Don't rush through them.

Sit with the Lord and invite the Holy Spirit to search your heart.

HUNGER

What has my appetite?

MERCY

Whose debt am I still demanding?

PURITY

Where has mixture entered my heart?

PEACEMAKING

Where is God asking me to pursue reconciliation?

COURAGE

Where is fear of people affecting my obedience?

TAKE IT INTO THE SECRET PLACE

Read **Matthew 5:6–12** slowly this week.

Then pray through Psalm 139:23–24:

"Search me, O God, and know my heart..."

Ask the Holy Spirit:

What do You want to expose?

What do You want to heal?

What do You want to change?

Where are You inviting me to become more like Jesus?

Remember:

The goal of studying the Word isn't simply to know more Bible.

It's to become more like Jesus.

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