



Impact Your World

Jesus and the Sermon on the Mount

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

— Matthew 7:24 —

LESSON TWO

IMPACT YOUR WORLD Your Happiness Threatens Your Neighbors

DISCUSSION QUESTION

“Would your neighbors consider you happy? On what basis?”

LESSON

Impact Your World: Your Happiness Threatens Your Neighbors

1. Poor in spirit. *Spiritual poverty.* Those who humbly come to God admitting spiritual bankruptcy will be blessed by God with salvation and eternal blessings.
2. Mourn. *Deep grief.* Comfort comes to those who mourn over their sin and look for solace from God, not the world.
3. Gentle. *Mildness, gentle in spirit, humility.* Emulating the example of Jesus. Living in humility and willingly giving up my rights for the benefit of someone else.
4. Hunger and thirst. *Deep longing for righteousness.* A desperate seeking of God and the righteous life will bring a satisfaction that the world cannot know.
5. Merciful. *Show forgiveness and compassion on others.* Those who have received God’s mercy are able to demonstrate God’s mercy to others. God remembers us when we do this.
6. Pure in heart. *Clean, blameless, all our being.* There is a holy devotion to God alone in our inmost being. Transparent, without hypocrisy, without hidden motives.
7. Peacemakers. *Reconciling others to God.* Only children of God can help others to know God, to be reconciled to God, to bring them to the Prince of Peace.
8. Persecuted. *Mistreated.* Living for God in word and deed in front of others will earn mistreatment by others. The believer is to rather embrace this mistreatment for His sake.



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The *Beatitudes* teach us:

- True happiness is not based on the blessings of man but on the blessings of God.
- True happiness is opposite of what the world offers for happiness.
- True happiness is available only to those who are God's through Jesus Christ.
- True happiness is ours even when our circumstances are miserable.
- True happiness is disturbing to those around us.
- That the way down is the way up.
- That hunger and thirst lead to satisfaction.
- That spiritual poverty leads to spiritual wealth.
- That mourning is the way to laughter.
- That having nothing is the way to having everything.

Matthew 5:3-10

3 “Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 “Blessed are those who **mourn**, for they shall be comforted.

5 “Blessed are the **gentle**, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 “Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they shall be satisfied.

7 “Blessed are the **merciful**, for they shall receive mercy.

8 “Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they shall see God.

9 “Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God.

10 “Blessed are those who have been **persecuted** for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you **because of Me**.

12 **Rejoice** and **be glad**, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



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“In fact, the things of the world become fuel for pride, they become fuel for lust, and they become a snare. And Jesus himself said the things of the world, the cares of the world, the riches of the world will rise up and choke out the Word. They are thorns and they will do to your soul what thorns do to your shirt or your dress.

“Listen, what God is saying in all of this marvelous and incomparable sermon, in these beatitudes, is simply this, people: You will never find happiness in this world. Never. You might as well learn it. That is like seeking the living among the dead. And the angel said, ‘He’s not here. He’s risen.’”

“Now as we look at these blessed, these judicial pronouncements of God. “Happy is the one who does this, who thinks this way.” We see a sequence. Look with me quickly at verse 3. First we see the poor in spirit. “Poor in spirit” is the right attitude towards sin, which leads to mourning, in verse 4, which leads after you’ve seen your sinfulness and you’ve mourned, to a meekness, a sense of humility, then to a seeking and hunger and thirst for righteousness. You can see the progression.

“And that manifests itself in mercy – verse 7 – in purity of heart – verse 8 – in a peacemaking spirit – verse 9. The result of being merciful and pure in heart and peacemaking is that you are reviled and you are persecuted and you are falsely accused. Why? Because by the time you have been poor in spirit, mourned over it, become humble, sought righteousness, lived a merciful, pure, and peacemaking life, you have sufficiently irritated the world so they’re going to react.

— John MacArthur