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THE BEATITUDES – A SERIES: PART 2 OF 11

Golden Gate Church of Christ

Clay Hooper

May 29, 2011

LAST WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:

**“How blessed are the people
whose God is the Lord!”**

Psalms 144:15 NIV



THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:

“How blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.”

James 1:12 NAS

- Instructions:
 - Read aloud as a group
 - Repeat as a group



PART 2 – WRAPPING UP THE INTRODUCTION

- The Text For This Series: **Matthew 4:23-5:12**
 - As discussed the last time we met, Jesus began his ministry in Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the Kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and sickness.
 - He was followed by great multitudes from Galilee, Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And, **all** Syria heard the news.
 - The Beatitudes introduce the *Sermon on the Mount* and set the foundation or essential values of the Christian character / relationship blocks upon which to build.
 - Are comprised of 8 statements of “Blessed are ...” and are followed by 8 rewards or winning outcomes.
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THIS WEEK: WHAT IS BLESSED?

- Bless, Blesses, Blest, Blessed, and Blessing are all derived from the same root meaning:

“**Happy**” or “**Supremely Happy**”

- From New Testament Greek:
 - Original Word: **makarioß**
 - Transliterated Word: **Makarios**
 - Phonetic Spelling: *mak-ar'-ee-os*
 - Definition: **blessed, happy**
- Has most power when the Blessing is SPOKEN!



○ Meanings and Uses of *Bless, Blessed, Blessing*:

(Class to Give Examples of Each)

- To consecrate or sanctify or render holy, beneficial, or prosperous by means of a religious rite.
- To give honor or glory to a person or thing as divine or holy; to make or pronounce as holy; extol as holy.
- To call upon or request of God to protect or give a benediction to.
- To worship or adore God; call or hold holy.
- To grant happiness, health, or prosperity to; bestow good of any kind upon.
- To endow with a talent, beauty, intelligence, etc.
- To protect or guard against evil or harm.
- Used as an exclamation of well-wishing.
- Used as an exclamation of surprise.



SOME BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

- **God *blesses* his people** when He bestows a spiritual or temporal gift (Gen 1:27-28; 24:34-35; Job 42:12-17; Ps 45:1-2; Eph 1:3; Heb 6:7; Jas 1:12)
- **We *bless* God** when we praise or thank Him (Ps 103:1-2; 145:1-2; Luk 24:52-53; Jas 3:8-10; I Pet 1:3; and **Angels Bless God**: Rev 5:11-12)
- **We *blesses* others** when we expresses good wishes or offer prayers for their welfare (Gen 24:58-60; 31:54-55; 1 Sam 2:18-21; Luk 6:27-28; 24:50-51; Rom 12:14; Heb 11:20-21)



- This concludes our Introduction to the Beatitudes and a closer look at “Blessed”. Let’s practice blessing others this week!
- Next time we meet we will examine the first Blessing from the Beatitudes:

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

Matthew 5:3

- You may want to plan ahead ... what do you think “poor in spirit” means?

