

#Blessed Series
Week 1 outline
10.10.21
Mt 5:1-12

FINDING GOD AT THE END OF A ROPE

I. Re-measuring Blessing

There's nothing quite like invoking holiness as a way to brag about your life.

A. Laying Down the Measuring Stick

We sometimes treat God's blessings like it's a measuring stick in our life

1. The Rich Life
 - it's the winners of the world who have God's blessing
2. The Poor Life
 - the losers of the world's economy get God's blessing
3. The Comfortable Life
 - the rest of us, somewhere in the middle, in pursuit of comfortability
 - it's just about getting: companionship, company, and accomplishments
 - and obtaining: a stress free, strife free, and pain free life?

The Consequences of Comfortable

- Comfortable people tend to...
 - avoid risk
 - love distractions
 - resist change
 - protect accumulations
 - have lots of opinions
 - not have a very big need for Jesus

GOD'S BLESSING IS MORE LIKE A RIVER THAN A STICK

B. Jesus' Description of The Blessed Person (Mt 5:1-12)

1. the most recognized, least understood, and lesser followed teaching of Jesus
2. Isn't eight descriptions of circumstances, but rather an interconnected picture of one who is blessed in the life of Christ
3. The "Beatitudes" are Jesus' description of what he wants his followers to be

II. The Poor in Spirit

1. Who are the poor in spirit?
2. Why is theirs the kingdom of Heaven?
3. How does it change our life?

A. Who are the poor in spirit?

1. Who they're not:
 - the weak in resolve, easily swayed, little in faith
2. Who they are: Those who understand their *NEED*
 - those who recognize they are helpless without God's help
 - those who admit their spiritual bankruptcy before God
 - those who acknowledge their need for spiritual transformation

TO BE POOR IN SPIRIT IS TO CONFESS OUR SPIRITUAL NEED OF A SAVIOR

B. Why is theirs the Kingdom of Heaven? (Lk 5:27-32)

- Until we know we're sick, we don't need a doctor
- the first step in receiving Christ into our lives is acknowledging that we need Christ in our lives

C. How does that change our life? (Jn 4:14)

1. It allows us to find satisfaction in God
2. It enables us to draw close to Christ
3. It empowers us to let go of the temporary
4. It frees us to cling to the eternal

"whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." **John 4:14**

A BLESSING IS ANYTHING GOD GIVES THAT MAKES US FULLY SATISFIED IN HIM,
ANYTHING THAT DRAWS US CLOSER TO JESUS, ANYTHING THAT HELPS US RELINQUISH
THE TEMPORARY AND CLING TO THE ETERNAL -j.stott