

# #Blessed

## Intro

- Series= The Great Invite
- 3 weeks ago= The Heavens are Opened
  - Living a holy life is key to a life of salvation
- 2 weeks ago= Come and See
  - Most of us came to Jesus by invite of someone else
  - Invite someone to “come and see”
- Last week= Follow Me
  - Answer the Call of Jesus
  - Go or stay
- This week= #Blessed
  - 4th week of the series the scene changes
  - Jesus called the disciples
  - Now the training period begins
  - For the next 4 weeks we will hear Jesus’ 1st lesson for his followers
    - Sermon on the Mount
    - Instructs his growing group of followers that come to hear him speak and receive healing (last week= greek word therapeuo’, therapy, serving/attending needs)

## Main

Matthew 5:1-12

1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 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 meek, 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 are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

### I. Social Media phenom

A. Popular hashtag, More than 100 million posts on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram

1. [https://twitter.com/CDJordan\\_/status/824096100030312448](https://twitter.com/CDJordan_/status/824096100030312448)

B. Sports References

1. [https://twitter.com/big\\_diesel44/status/824809854602792960](https://twitter.com/big_diesel44/status/824809854602792960)

2. <https://twitter.com/BenGarland63/status/823347853158400002>

C. Movie/TV Stars

1.

D. Upper Room?

1. <https://twitter.com/UpperRoom/status/790632881383145473>

E. Geoff Grubbs= #blessthemess

F. Not what Jesus meant in the Sermon on the Mount

1. What others call blessed is not exactly what Jesus calls blessed

### II. Jesus and Blessing

- A. Not cause and effect
    - 1. Not blessed with the kingdom because you are poor in spirit
    - 2. Not blessed with comfort b/c you are in mourning
  - B. Pronouncing blessing
    - 1. Blessing them for a purpose
    - 2. Describing how to live as God's people in the world
      - a) Not calling attention to the many ways God has blessed us personally
      - b) Being a blessing for others
      - c) Blessed to be a blessing
        - (1) Talked about it before
        - (2) Abraham
          - (a) Genesis 12:1-3 1 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
        - (3) Blessed to be a blessing= Tweet from Upper Room
- C. New teaching for Jesus' listeners
  - 1. Ancient world (similar to today)
    - a) Cause and effect
      - (1) Good, follow commandments, work hard, do best
      - (2) God would reward with good health, food, jobs, happy families, prosperity
        - (a) Prosperity gospel
        - (b) Your Best Life Now
      - (3) Likewise God would punish the sinful with illness, poverty, imprisonment, blindness, divorce, personal tragedy
    - b) People believed that if a person was sick, mourning, poor in spirit, starving, persecuted, it was their fault for sinning and a result of their bad behavior
      - (1) Suffering was understood as a punishment for sin
  - 2. Jesus is saying something different
    - a) Doesn't work like that in the kingdom of God
    - b) Not wrong to feel blessed when something goes our way
    - c) But when it doesn't go our way, doesn't mean that God is punishing us
    - d) God's kingdom works differently
      - (1) Job
- D. Blessing in the Kingdom of God
  - 1. Jesus blesses everyone that is gathered, no matter who or what they have done
    - a) Come as you are
    - b) Blessing is not just for the righteous
      - (1) Ephesians 2:8-9 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
    - c) Not for certain religious groups, genders, cultures, races
    - d) Not for just the pure, those who go to church, give to charities, treat people with kindness
    - e) Money, homes, cars are not evidence of God's blessing

2. Blessing on saints and sinners both
  - a) Poor in wallet, Poor in spirit, Blind, Lame, Imprisoned, Outcast, Leper, Prostitute, Murderer, Thief, Adulterer
  - b) Jews, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists
  - c) Democrats- Those that voted for Hillary, Republicans- Those that voted for Trump, Libertarians, Independents
  - d) God's blessing does not discriminate
  - e) God's blessing is for all, for you, for me
3. Good News
  - a) No matter who you are or what you've done
    - (1) 1 John 3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
  - b) You are blessed and welcomed into God's family/kingdom
    - (1) I like kingdom, more prestigious
    - (2) Family, blah, haha
  - c) Nothing you can do to lose God's love, affirmation, blessing
    - (1) Romans 8:35-39 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
      - (2) Not once saved always saved
  - d) #blessed is our identity
    - (1) Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
  - e) #blessed is our conditions
    - (1) Paul in 1 Timothy 1:15-16 15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. 16 But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life
  - f) #blessed is who we are b/c of God's saving love in Jesus Christ
    - (1) John 3:16-17 16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.
4. These people are blessed
  - a) Live down the street
  - b) Let their kids run wild
  - c) Don't work, collecting welfare
  - d) In jail for dealing drugs
  - e) Pregnant out of wedlock

- f) Members of gang
- g) Racist
- h) Sit in judgement
- i) Pray to Allah
- j) Carry guns
- k) Crazy feminists
- l) Etc., ALL THESE PEOPLE are #blessed

## Closing

- Followers of Jesus
  - #blessed in order to be a blessing
    - Few months back
  - Tough opening message from Jesus to his followers
- Do you hear the message?
  - Can you hear Jesus saying, *You Are Blessed?*
  - Not b/c of anything you've done or deserve
- Bless the members of the congregation
- Turn and tell neighbor they are blessed
- #BlessedatEbenezerUMCJefferson