28

In Luke 6 and Matthew 5, Jesus delivered two very similar sermons. The one in Luke is often called the Sermon on the Plain, and the one in Matthew is often called the Sermon on the Mount. In the opening section of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus lists several virtues. He tells us that people who possess these virtues are “blessed.” Blessedness is not simply happiness. Happiness is temporary, based on fleeting circumstances. Blessedness, however, is long-lasting, based as it is on God’s promises. Blessedness is the joy and favor that fills the life of a person who trusts in God. That trust enables us to endure the troubles of earthly life, because we know that one day our faithful God will correct all wrongs and bring us into a life of everlasting peace. That is blessedness.

In Matthew 5, Jesus gives eight characteristics of a Christ-like life. He also names the long-lasting blessings that follow these characteristics. The chart on the next page lists each characteristic and then the blessing that accompanies it.

**Vocabulary Words**

- **beatitudes** (bē a’ tō tūdz’): eight statements of virtue or character that Jesus makes in Matthew 5:3-10
- **blessed** (ble’ săd): enjoying the favor of God

**ANALYZE THE READING**

In Luke 6 and Matthew 5, Jesus delivered two very similar sermons. The one in Luke is often called the Sermon on the Plain, and the one in Matthew is often called the Sermon on the Mount. In the opening section of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus lists several virtues. He tells us that people who possess these virtues are “blessed.” Blessedness is not simply happiness. Happiness is temporary, based on fleeting circumstances. Blessedness, however, is long-lasting, based as it is on God’s promises. Blessedness is the joy and favor that fills the life of a person who trusts in God. That trust enables us to endure the troubles of earthly life, because we know that one day our faithful God will correct all wrongs and bring us into a life of everlasting peace. That is blessedness.

In Matthew 5, Jesus gives eight characteristics of a Christ-like life. He also names the long-lasting blessings that follow these characteristics. The chart on the next page lists each characteristic and then the blessing that accompanies it.

**Read Your Bible – Luke 6:17-23 and Matthew 5:3-12**

Put your initials on the line when you have finished reading the passages. ______

**Complete the exercises.**

1. Even though a multitude surrounded Jesus, to whom was He specifically speaking? __________________________

2. For the following beatitude from Matthew 5, write the corresponding verse number from Luke 6. “Blessed are they that mourn.” __________________________
## Explanation of the Beatitudes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Blessing Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>The poor in spirit.</em> To be poor in spirit means to be humble and recognize that God is the only great One.</td>
<td>The poor in spirit will receive the kingdom of God with its comfort and joy. Riches of the world do not seem very important when contrasted with the riches of God’s kingdom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>They that mourn.</em> A Christian who mourns lives a life of repentance, regretting the sin that he has committed and asking God for forgiveness.</td>
<td>Those who weep will laugh eventually and will be comforted. God’s comfort comes to anyone who repents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The meek.</em> Someone who is meek submits himself to God, no matter what problems he encounters. A meek person is gentle to everyone around him, repaying evil with good.</td>
<td>The meek will inherit the earth. Presently, they enjoy the benefits of God’s creation. When God makes a new heaven and a new earth, the meek shall reign there with Him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness.</em> If someone is hungering after a right standing with God, he really and truly desires God’s work in his life. He wants God’s presence more than anything in the world.</td>
<td>The hungry will have their souls filled with God’s eternal love, peace, and joy. God’s presence satisfies the one who is hungry or thirsty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The merciful.</em> The merciful reach out to those around them who are suffering and show them mercy and compassion.</td>
<td>The merciful will also obtain mercy from other people and from God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The pure in heart.</em> The pure in heart have been washed and cleansed of wickedness and seek only after God. As a result, they show a life of integrity to those around them.</td>
<td>The pure in heart will see God and understand His heart. After being cleansed, a Christian grows to know God better and better.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The peacemakers.</em> A peacemaker gets along with the people around him and does not cause problems. He brings peaceful solutions when difficulties arise.</td>
<td>The peacemakers are called children of God. Those around them recognize that they are like their heavenly Father, who brings peace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake.</em> Whether being made fun of, lied about, or persecuted, this person bears suffering for Christ’s sake.</td>
<td>The persecuted rejoice because they know they are doing what is right. Just like the prophets, they will receive a great reward in Heaven for their suffering.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lesson 8

The Life of Christ

The Beatitudes describe a Christ-like life.

Use your concordance and the hints below to find verses elsewhere in the Bible that show Christ had the characteristics listed in these Beatitudes.

3. poor in spirit (New Testament verse containing the word humbled) ________________
4. meek (a verse from Isaiah containing the word oppressed) ________________
5. merciful (a verse from Mark referring to Jesus’ compassion on the multitude) ________________
6. pure in heart (a verse from 1 Peter containing the word guile) ________________
7. persecuted for righteousness sake (a verse from 1 Peter telling how Christ responded when others reviled Him) ________________

The Teachings of Christ

Complete the chart with the missing characteristics and blessings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A Christian’s Characteristics</th>
<th>Blessings Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8. poor in spirit</td>
<td>receive ________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. __________________________</td>
<td>will be comforted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. __________________________</td>
<td>will inherit ________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. merciful</td>
<td>will obtain ________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. __________________________</td>
<td>shall see God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. peacemakers</td>
<td>are called ________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. persecuted for righteousness’ sake</td>
<td>receive a great ________________ in Heaven.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complete the exercises.

16. Explain how happiness and blessedness are different. ________________

17. What did Jesus mean when He used the word mourn? ________________
**Bible Memory**

**Complete the verse.**

18. “And __________ he saw __________ faith, he said unto ____________,
Man, ___________ sins are ____________ thee.” Luke ____ : 20

**Think it through**

Does it seem to you that the wicked prosper but the righteous face many hard things? The psalmist thought so. Turn to Psalm 73. You may read the whole psalm, but especially focus on vv. 2-5, 12-24.

**Answer the question.**

19. What eternal blessing can the righteous look forward to that the wicked cannot?

**Review**

**Circle the words that make the sentence correct.**

20. The question of what it means to keep the Sabbath holy created conflict, agreement between the **Pharisees, Gentiles** and Jesus.

**Circle the letter of the phrase that correctly completes the sentence.**

21. The scribes and Pharisees ____ Jesus and His teachings.
   A. were indifferent toward  
   B. were at odds with  
   C. appreciated  
   D. were able to silence

**Answer the questions and complete the sentence.**

22. What two kinds of work did Jesus teach could be done on the Sabbath?

23. Which group copied and taught the Law?

24. Which group developed oral traditions and felt proud of following the Law?

25. Why did Jesus withdraw to another area to continue His work of healing?

26. How was Jesus a different kind of Messiah than the Jews expected?

27. Pharisees criticized Jesus’ disciples for picking and eating ___________ on the ___________.
Get Into the Bible

Have you ever seen the lights of a town late at night? The town might be miles away, but you can see its lights shining in the dark sky.

Have you ever eaten unsalted food? The food may have been very good, but it tasted flat without salt.

Jesus used light and salt in the Sermon on the Mount to represent the influence Christians have on people around them. In Jesus’ day, salt was used to season food and keep it from spoiling. Salt was also used in Jewish sacrifices.

Jesus compared the Christian’s influence to salt. Just as it does not take much salt to change the flavor of food, a few Christians can have a great effect on the world. As each Christian lives a life worthy of the Gospel, the effect is felt by all those around him. Just as salt is scattered on food, Christians can make a difference wherever they are scattered throughout the land. Jesus warned His listeners not to be like salt that has lost its flavor, because then they will be useless.

The second symbol Jesus used to describe Christians was light. Christians are to shine the light of Jesus Christ to everyone in the world because His light clears away the darkness of sin. His light expresses the great glory of God. Jesus

Read Your Bible – Matthew 5:13-32
Put your initials on the line when you have finished reading the passage. _______

Bible Vocabulary
savour (sā’ vər): a specific flavor

Answer the questions.

1. What should we do when we come to worship God and then remember that we do not have peace with someone?

2. Who gets the glory when believers let their light shine?

Vocabulary Word
reconcile (rē’ kən sīl’): to bring back to a friendship or agreement

Analyze the Reading

Have you ever seen the lights of a town late at night? The town might be miles away, but you can see its lights shining in the dark sky.

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warned Christians not to hide His light but to let everyone see it. He cautioned His followers that they should not do good works so that people will glorify them; all glory belongs to God alone.

The next section of the Sermon on the Mount deals with the nature of the Old Testament Law. Jesus made it clear that He was not doing away with the Law. Rather, He was fulfilling and completing it. Everything that had been prophesied and promised in the Law would now come to pass. Jesus explained that His fulfilling of the Law surpassed the practice and teaching of the scribes and Pharisees, because He called for a person to be cleansed inwardly, not just on the outside.

Then Jesus clarified the meaning of specific laws from the Old Testament. In verses 21 to 27 of Matthew 5, Jesus spoke about laws found in the Ten Commandments. The first of these deals with the commandment that says, “Thou shalt not kill.” Everyone knows that it is wrong to kill another person. However, Jesus said this law goes further—anger and hatred toward another are just as wrong as killing him.

Christians are called to live in peace with each other. When problems arise, the Christian is to be reconciled with his brother—to forgive and make amends. Jesus reminded His listeners that our worship of God is not acceptable if we have anger in our hearts toward another person. One’s anger must be dealt with before his worship is acceptable. It is necessary to make peace with a brother immediately. Just as God offers forgiveness to His people, so we must forgive each other.

Jesus then talked about the problem of having sin in one’s heart. All sin begins with temptation in the heart. When we yield to temptation, we sin. Jesus told His followers to identify the source of temptation. They need to get rid of any temptation that causes them to sin. First Corinthians 10:13 says
Lesson 9

**THE LIFE OF CHRIST**

Complete by filling in the blanks and circling correct answers.


4. The laws Jesus quoted in verses 21 and 27 come from a special group of laws called the __________________________.

5. The laws the scribes and Pharisees taught dealt with a person’s actions—what can be seen on the outside—but Jesus went further and called for a person to be _______________ ____________.

6. Jesus taught that _______________ toward another is just as bad as _______________ him, so we can conclude that wrong actions, attitudes are just as bad as wrong actions, attitudes.

7. All sin begins in the _______________.

8. When a Christian sins, he should find the _______________ of his temptation, get _______________ of it, and ask God for _______________.

**THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST**

Write the letters of the answers in the blanks to complete the sentences.

9. Christians are like salt because ______ and ______.

10. Christians are like light because ______ and ______.

Complete the exercise.

11. Why is it important for a Christian to forgive and be at peace with his brother?
   A. Mark 11:25 ________________________________
   B. Ephesians 4:32 ________________________________
   C. Hebrews 12:14, 15
      Without peace no man shall _______________ _______________ _______________. A root of _______________ will spring up and _______________ that person and cause many to be _______________.

A. they shine the light of Jesus Christ to the world
B. they change the “flavor” of the communities where they live
C. they help to expose sin
D. they are scattered throughout the land
**Bible Memory**

Write the memory verse, including its reference.

12.  

**Think it Through**

Think about the last time you lit a candle. Did you hide it in a corner? Jesus said people do not hide candles under baskets, but put them on candlesticks so they “give light unto all that are in the house.”

Write a sentence or two explaining how a Christian can put his light on a candlestick.

△ 13.  

**Review**

Complete the sentences.


15. A. Jesus called those who are sorry for their sins, “those who .”  
   
   B. Such people will be blessed with God’s .

16. Jesus humbled Himself to come to earth and die, showing He was in spirit.

17. The poor in spirit will receive the riches of God’s .

18. The merciful will obtain from God and others.

19. Those persecuted for righteousness’ sake will receive .

Complete the sentences with the words *blessedness* and *happiness*.

20. *Blessedness* is temporary, but *happiness* is long-lasting.

21. *Blessedness* is based on God’s promises, but *happiness* is based on circumstances.
The Sermon on the Mount

The Sermon on the Mount contains many principles for life Jesus wanted His disciples—and all Christians—to follow. Already you have studied the Beatitudes and the influence Christians can have on the world around them. The rest of the Sermon on the Mount continues with Jesus’ practical teachings on living a life modeled after His.

Memory Verse:

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.” Matthew 7:24
Get Into the Bible

If you are ever tempted to swear, remember the words of Jesus in verse 34, “Swear not at all.” Do not swear by using vulgar, dirty language. Do not swear by using the name of God or Christ or Jesus idly or in an irreverent way. The name of the Lord is to be treated respectfully. When the Jewish scribes copied the Old Testament Scriptures, they treated the name of God with great reverence. For example, when some copyists came to God’s name, they would stop and bathe before returning to their task with a new pen that had never been used before. Only then would they write the name of God.

You do not need to follow that procedure when you write God, but you do need to have reverence for His name. You should also avoid forms of God’s name in exclamations.

Earlier in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke of the specific Old Testament laws that He was fulfilling. In today’s Bible passage, Jesus first teaches about laws that address making vows. He then speaks about refusing to retaliate when someone wrongs us.

When the Pharisees interpreted the laws about making vows, they insisted that vows or oaths must be kept if they were made in God’s

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**Read Your Bible – Matthew 5:33-48**

Put your initials on the line when you have finished reading the passage. _______

**Answer the questions.**

1. What does “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth” mean? Read Leviticus 24:19, 20 if you need help.

   ____________________________________________

   ____________________________________________

2. Jesus said, “Love your enemies” and points us to our Father’s example. According to verses 44 and 45, how does God show love to His “enemies”?

   ____________________________________________

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**Vocabulary Word**

**retaliate** (ri ta’ lē āt’): to repay equally; to get revenge

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**Analyze the Reading**

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When the Pharisees interpreted the laws about making vows, they insisted that vows or oaths must be kept if they were made in God’s
name. However, if someone made a promise and did not seal it with an oath in God's name, some Pharisees said that such a promise could be broken. This had led to the practice of casually swearing in God's name, or in the name of some religious object such as the temple. Many Jews assumed that swearing in that way would make their words more believable.

Jesus said that His followers should simply be honest, following through on whatever they promised to do. They should not swear at all, not by God's name nor by any other thing. Swearing is foolish, Jesus said, because we do not have the power to control what happens. Jesus' followers should just say what they mean and do what they have said.

The second teaching Jesus gave in today's lesson deals with responding to those who mistreat us. The Old Testament law called for punishment in kind. If two men fought, and one gouged out the other's right eye, the offender would lose his right eye also. Jesus, however, called upon His followers not to take revenge or return evil for evil. He said we should instead love our enemies and pray for those who mistreat us. He gave three pictures of how a Christian might do this.

Imagine someone hitting you on your cheek. What would you do? Jesus said that we should turn our other cheek, rather than hitting back. Jesus also pictured someone suing a follower of Christ. He said that in such a case, you should give whatever you are asked to give and then give more. He also asked us to imagine someone forcing us to do some service for him. Do more than he demands, Jesus commanded. If someone in authority commands you to carry his burden for a mile, carry it two miles instead.

Through these examples, Jesus taught nonresistance, the practice of not fighting back against mistreatment but giving an example to an oppressor by meek and patient behavior. A true disciple of Christ bears mistreatment patiently and even endures more mistreatment rather than taking revenge. Kindness and forgiveness are a powerful means of helping a sinner see his sins.

Jesus ended this section of His sermon by teaching His followers to love their enemies. The Jewish people knew that God required them to love their neighbors and friends. But they were not prepared for Jesus' command that they must also love their enemies. Jesus gave four commands about how to treat our enemies: love them, speak well to or about them, do good to them, and pray for them. When we act this way, we become like God, for He shows mercy to both the just and the unjust. Of course, Jesus demonstrated this kind of love when He died for sinners on the cross.

This last teaching seemed very difficult to the people listening to Jesus, and it seems difficult to Christians today. Showing love to someone who has been unkind is not natural for us; yet, what better testimony can a Christian give than to return good for evil? While loving our enemies can be hard, God gives us the grace we need to do it.

Teachings of Christ

Answer the questions.

3. Why is it foolish to swear by something to try to make our words stronger?
4. What did Christ say His followers should do instead? __________________________________________

5. What is nonresistance? ________________________________________________________________

6. How are Christians able to love those who are unkind? _________________________________

Match Jesus’ teaching to its meaning.

7. _____ “Turn the other cheek.”

8. _____ “Go the second mile.”

A. Do more than is asked for.
B. Keep your word.
C. Accept mistreatment rather than take revenge.

List four ways Jesus commanded believers to treat their enemies.

9. A. __________________________________________
   B. __________________________________________
   C. __________________________________________
   D. __________________________________________

Bible Memory

Write the memory verse, including its reference.

10. __________________________________________________________________________________
    __________________________________________________________________________________
    __________________________________________________________________________________

Think it Through

11. Imagine someone in your life is being an enemy to you. This person mocks you and calls you names. He or she has even spread lies about you. Give one way you can show the love of Christ to this person. __________________________________________
    __________________________________________________________________________________
    __________________________________________________________________________________

Review

Write a short answer.

12. Where does all sin begin? __________________________________________
Lesson 11

13. If a Christian sins, how should he deal with it?
   A. 
   B. 
   C. 

14. What did Jesus do to the Old Testament Law?

15. What is just as bad as wrong actions?

Complete the sentences.

16. Jesus said that we should go and be reconciled with our brother __________ we worship God.

17. Because Christians change the flavor of communities where they live, Jesus compared them to __________.

18. Because Christians shine the light of Jesus Christ to the world, Jesus said they are like __________.