

Blessing— The Pure, the Peacemakers, and the Persecuted— 05.24.2020

Scripture: Matthew 5.1-12

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Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,² and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said:

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

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

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

⁹ **Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.**

¹⁰ **Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

¹¹ **“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

Revelation 22.3-5

No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Summary:

As we concluded our Blessing series, Pastor Jacob guided us through the last four beatitudes in Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. Living out the purity we find in Christ and making peace may lead to persecution, insults and slander. But we will see God, we will be called children of God, the kingdom of heaven is ours, and great is our reward in heaven.

Study Questions:

- Read Matthew 5.8. Jacob pointed out that although we may have moments of purity, we can’t make ourselves pure. Our purity is dependent on Jesus. In what ways do you seek purity? Have you ever noticed that when you seek purity, you see God?
- Read Matthew 5.9. We don’t just seek peace, we are called to be makers of peace. Name a place where there is a lack of peace today. What does it look like to be a peacemaker in that situation?

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- Read Matthew 5.10. Sometimes those who are seeking purity and peace will find themselves being persecuted, insulted, and slandered. The reason Jesus can put the words “blessed” and “kingdom of heaven” around these promises is because everything is upside down in God’s kingdom. In your experience, how does the world treat those who are seeking to make peace? What has prevented you from making peace in a difficult situation—or what caused you to risk persecution in order to be a peacemaker?
- Read Revelation 22.3-5. Here is the image of what the realization of Jesus’ promises look like. How can you use this image as you walk through the impurity of this world?

Prayer for the Pure, the Peacemakers, and the Persecuted

God, help us to seek purity.
Help us to be makers of peace in this broken world.
Help us to stand firm in the promise of your kingdom coming.
We long for you to be our light and for there to be no more night.
Amen.