



# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## MATTHEW 5:1-16

### UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM — June 4, 2023

#### INTRODUCTION:

Just as Moses went up the mountain to bring a new law to the people, so Jesus from the mountain describes the way God wants us to live now.

#### LESSON: I. THE INDIVIDUAL HEART MATTHEW 5:1-6

**5:1** And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:— Jesus became very popular with the people, and great crowds followed Him wherever He went. He chose a wide-open space in which to teach because the crowds that gathered around Him were too big to be contained in the narrow streets of a town. So, He chose a mountainside, and sat down with His disciples to teach them along with the crowds of people who had also gathered around. This "Sermon on the Mount" outlines the right attitudes toward: ourselves, sin, the Lord, and the world. In doing so, we are blessed with rewards.

**5:2** And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying. This following message consists of 8 Beatitudes describing what we should be like as Christ's followers, and the rewards we receive.

**5:3a** Blessed are the poor in spirit:— "Blessed" (*makarios*) is spiritual joy and satisfaction that lasts regardless of conditions; that carries one through pain, sorrow, loss, and grief. Man seeks to be blessed only in this world with: position, money, fame, power, and sensual pleasure. And blessed literally means happy; fortunate with · friends · A good job · Being in love · Recognition or success · Sex · Personal growth · Good health · My religion · Being a parent · A good house or apartment · Being attractive or beautiful · The city that I live in · Recreation and exercise · or my partner's happiness.

Virtually everything named were external things or an external situation. That type of happiness is temporary.

But, Blessed are the "Poor in spirit" does not mean to be "*poor spirited*" or low self-esteem, and have no backbone at all! The poor in spirit know they are **spiritually bankrupt**. They are brought to the place of spiritual starvation and know that whatever they do, it's not impossible with God. When we're in that place, we're admitting daily, I don't have it altogether, because we don't. It is **an attitude of needing God's Spirit** to carry every pain. Poor in spirit is a willingness to be taught by God. The first step to receive the blessing is, very simple, be humble.

#### 1. Humility reduces your stress.

Jesus talks about this principle later in his Sermon on the Mount in the section about worry that begins in Matthew 6:25, where He basically says, why do you fret over what you're going to eat, what you're going to wear, and how long you're going to live, and how many hairs you have on your head? He says why do you worry about all that when you've got a God who's bigger than everything? When I'm humble, I don't have to have all the answers.

#### 2. Humility improves your relationships.

If you walk humbly before the Lord, you're almost immune to insults. It doesn't mean that you don't accept criticism; it's just that you don't take it so personally that you get all upset. Humility will cause you to be settled inside knowing who you are and whose you are that improves your relationships with others.

#### 3. Humility unleashes God's power.

He channels all His power through the humble believer.





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**5:3b ...for theirs is the kingdom of heaven, an eternal glory already prepared.**

*Kingdom of heaven is found only in the Gospel of Matthew (32 times) and Kingdom of God is used in the other Gospels (66 uses including 4 times in Matthew).*

Citizens of this kingdom are those who are born again believers. They possess the kingdom of heaven through humility. Jesus Himself makes it clear that to enter this kingdom shows <sup>1</sup>the Paradox of the Christian life: "*We surrender that we might reign.*" We'll reign as kings when we submit as Servants!

**God the Father humbles Himself!** *Ps. 113:5-6 "Who is like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high, Who humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth!"*

**God the Son humbled Himself** - *Phil.2:18 and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

Think of the humility of the **Holy Spirit** as He lives within us day by day? Humility & Service go together! Happy are the poor in spirit for they are stripped of pride and now sensitive to God's kingdom ministry. Once you realize what you really are, then you know that only Jesus can heal you and save you from your sins. Only then can the kingdom come within you, when the King is allowed to rule in the life of the believer.

## **THE CHARACTER QUALITY OF THE POOR IN SPIRIT IS HUMILITY.**

**5:4a Blessed are they that mourn:** —We know what "*blessed*" means, happy, but now we come to the word mourn— (*penthountes*) to have **a broken heart**. It is the strongest word possible for mourning. This does not speak of casual sorrow; this is an intense degree of mourning. It is like the deep mourning and wailing that occurs over the death of a loved one. It is a desperate sorrow over personal sinfulness, evil and suffering. It is a brokenness of self that comes from seeing Christ on the cross and realizing that our sins put Him there. Who mourns?

- The person who is desperately sorry for his sins and feels unworthy before God (*i.e. the publican and the sinner*).
- The person who really feels the desperate plight and terrible suffering of others; the tragedies, the problems, the sinful behavior of others—the state, the condition, the lostness of the world that weighs ever so heavily upon the mourner's heart (*i.e. Jesus was sent to bind up the brokenhearted Is.61:1*).
- The person who experiences personal tragedy and intense trauma (*i.e. a death*).

How are we to be happy mourning? Well, God does not only realize your brokenness while you are mourning, but He's aware, and He's there with you in the power of His Holy Spirit in your situation. This ability to mourn is part of the beginning of the grieving process that leads to faith. It causes us to face honestly our condition, and stand with God in faith that all will be alright. This sorrow or mourning is designed to produce a faith response, for we walk by faith. Our faith is always in God! It causes us to acknowledge the reality of sin, and then, it causes us to repent of our sins. We sin when we don't trust God or the process! Trust the process means you are allowing God to handle the situation, and moving yourself out of the way!

The result is **5:4b ...for they shall be comforted.** There is a present comfort:

- A settled peace: a relief, a solace, a consolation within (Jh.14:27; 16:33).
- An assurance of forgiveness and acceptance by God (Eph.1:3; 1Jh.1:9; 2:1-2).
- A fullness of joy: a sense of God's presence, care and guidance, a sense of His sovereignty, a sense of His working all things out for good to those who love Him (Rom.8:28; 15:11; 2Cor.6:10; Ps.16:11).

And there is an eternal comfort:

- A passing from death to life (Jh.3:16; 5:24).
- A wiping away of all tears (Is.25:8; Rev.21:4).

This comfort brings forgiveness, salvation, and much joy! **THE CHARACTER QUALITY OF THEM THAT MOURN IS SENSITIVITY.**

**5:5a Blessed are the meek:**— Happy are the **meek** (*praeis*). Can we find happiness in meekness? Who are the

<sup>1</sup> Brian Bell doc.





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meek? Meekness is not weakness for both Moses and Jesus were meek men! Meekness is:

- having a strong but tender and humble life—that is, humble before God and man; knowing your need for God.
- having a teachable spirit; your strength under His control—He is always in control when dealing with people: cool, even-tempered. Able to show displeasure without reacting impulsively, able to answer softly.
- shows a willingness to submit and work under proper authority—The mind and body are disciplined, never let loose... Passion, urges, speech, behavior, sight, touch are always controlled (under God's control).
- and it also shows a willingness to disregard one's own "rights" and privileges—being forgiving, not revengeful.

Meekness is a fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5 which is **gentleness**. It is not something that I can muster up of my own power, of my own ability; it has to come from God. This word really is a word that was used to describe a wild animal that had been tamed or had been domesticated. <sup>2</sup>Blessed, happy is that person who has all of his strength, and all of his spirit, or all of his personality or energy, but they've allowed someone else to master them and to control them.

**Why are you happy** if you're meek? - Because you're no longer at the mercy of your own passion. You're no longer at the mercy or the whim of your emotions or your anger or your temper. You can take an insult without giving one back. You can turn the other cheek, not because you're weak, but because you're stable, and because you're strong in the Lord. You're happy because you're free, free from bitterness, and you're not easily provoked to anger. You don't have to resort to revenge. You're God-controlled; you've allowed His Spirit to direct your spirit. It takes strength and power to be meek.

**5:5b** The promise: **...for they shall inherit the earth**, speaks of the coming Millennial Kingdom Age when the kingdom of heaven will be brought down to earth when the saints will rule with Christ as its supreme Lord.

- You'll prosper because your calmness gives you good judgment.
- Your contentment gives you security and peace of mind, and that's being happy in this life.
- Your gentleness and your fairness with others will gain the confidence of others.

So, we inherit the earth and we're going to enjoy God's blessings more in this life, but secondly, there's a future blessing which will be on earth in the Millennial Age.

## **THE CHARACTER QUALITY OF THE MEEK IS MEEKNESS.**

**5:6a Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness:**— Happy are those who hunger and thirst for **being and doing right; in right standing with God.** <sup>3</sup>Jesus' analogy demonstrates that righteousness is required for the spiritual life, just as food and water are required for the physical life. It's not an optional spiritual supplement, but a spiritual necessity. Both hunger and thirst means to be dissatisfied with our present situation if it's not right with God. We need only the righteousness the Savior provides. We need to hunger and thirst only for His Righteousness that will fill and satisfy our innermost need. The righteousness of God has been shown and has been demonstrated perfectly in Jesus Christ to man of what God wants man to have His Savior He sends, to be and to do righteously. This is the love of God, for God has not given man just the written Word describing His righteousness, but He has given man a life—the life of His own Son to show what He means by righteousness.

**5:6b** The Promise...**for they shall be filled** refers to a complete filling; an abundance till you are satisfied coming from the Spirit of God, who can totally be the source for satisfaction for His people. Until we come to the place where we are single-minded in our pursuit of God, we will never be satisfied. We need to be so famished and so parched that we will become relentlessly passionate about seeking the Savior. When the Prodigal Son was hungry, he turned to the food the pigs were eating. And when he was starving, he turned to his father. It's only when we come to the end of ourselves, empty and depleted, allowing God to have His way, that's when our filling comes.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.theparkwaychurchofchrist.com/SermonsA-D/beattitudes3.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.theparkwaychurchofchrist.com/SermonsA-D/beattitudes4.htm>



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However, this is a strange filling that both satisfies us, and keeps us longing for more. Therefore, you want to continue attending places where that hunger can be filled; you want to spend time in Bible study and Sunday School; and you want to keep yourself from the things that rob and distract you of that hunger, by staying under the power of God's Spirit. The Word and the Spirit will always lead to a true righteousness in Christ Jesus.

## **THE CHARACTER QUALITY OF THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS IS OBEDIENCE.**

### **II. RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS    MATTHEW 5:7-12**

**5:7a Blessed are the merciful:**— Happy are the **compassionate** (*eleemones*), to have a forgiving spirit and a compassionate heart, and much more. It's not an eye for an eye; it is not a natural attribute of man, but it's a gift of God that comes with the new birth. If we got justice, that's what we deserved, but Mercy is not getting what we deserve. The opposite of mercy is hostility and aggressiveness, which expresses itself in an unforgiving and faultfinding spirit. But, <sup>4</sup>if people see that we care, their hearts will respond in caring. If we are detached and disinterested in them, they will be detached and disinterested in us. For he who shows mercy, will receive mercy. Demonstrating God's gift shows that it is "*more blessed to give than to receive.*" Therefore, the results of being merciful are numerous which changes an attitude within us to be happy.

**5:7b The Promise...for they shall obtain mercy.**

- a. A person is given the mercy of God—forgiveness of sins (Psalm 18:25; 2 Samuel 22:26).
- b. A person does good to his own soul (Proverbs 19:17).
- c. A person is paid back what he gives—by God Himself (Proverbs 19:17).
- d. A person behaves like God Himself (Luke 6:36; Psalm 103:8; Joel 2:15).
- e. A person is blessed (Psalm 51:1).
- f. A person is assured of finding "*mercy in that day*" (2 Tim. 1:18).
- g. A person shall inherit the Kingdom of God—forever (Matthew 25:34-35).

Through the parables mercy is shown:

- The parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk.10:25-37-helping a stranger).
- The parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matt.18:23-27-The master of the unforgiving servant was moved with compassion at first—later it was a different story by actions of the one mercy was shown).
- The parable of the Two Debtors (Lk.7:40-50-Jesus asks, *which of them will love him more...the one whom he has forgave more*).

There are so many others. Jesus showed mercy through so many ways to His people, including going to the cross and taking our place on that cross and saying, "*forgive them for they know not what they do*" before we ever accepted His love!    **THE CHARACTER QUALITY OF THE MERCIFUL IS COMPASSION.**

**5:8a Blessed are the pure in heart:**— Happy are they who have **a clean heart** (*katharoi*); unsoiled, cleansed; unpolluted; purged; forgiven; holy; no jealousy, no envy, no malice, but having a single purpose, which is God's glory. **Note:** Anything that made the Jews unclean, they didn't touch it or go around it. All of those things were for outside show, but God looks at the heart. The heart is the greater matter, not the traditions or the religion of men. The believer is to constantly search his heart and cleanse it of impure motives. A person's very best behavior is seldom (if ever) free from some mixture of self. It is questionable if a sinful creature can ever act perfectly—perfectly free from mixed emotions or motives. Motives involving self are sinister and deceptive. You might have to ask yourself these questions because God sees behind any mask:

- a. Am I employed primarily for self, or to serve Christ, and to earn enough to help others who have a need?
- b. Am I ministering to help the needy, or to have a sense of self-satisfaction?
- c. Am I worshipping to honor God, or to satisfy a feeling of obligation?

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.theparkwaychurchofchrist.com/SermonsA-D/beattitudes5.htm>  
[www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html](http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html)





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d. Am I praying daily to fellowship with God, or to gain comfortable feelings that I am pleasing God through my praying?

*Cast every care upon Him for He cares for you' 1Pt.5:7.*

- Admit your sinful impure thoughts before God.
- Ask God to forgive you and renew a right spirit and a clean heart.
- Draw closer to God.
- Memorize and meditate on God's Word.
- Avoid complaining and arguing where those things can come back into the heart.
- Guard your heart by the things you watch.
- Wait on the Lord. In that waiting faith builds.
- Find a faithful friend to hold you accountable.
- Focus on your future hope. It's a lifestyle.

By allowing God to work on your heart, it brings benefits!

**5:8b ...for they shall see God.** Seeing God is a lifestyle of holiness! Holiness is not a bad thing because this is a more intimate fellowship reserved in you seeing His glory; seeing the hand of God move; seeing God move in the life of others by changing a hard heart. There will be no disguises in your Christian walk. **Presently, the pure in heart shall see God by faith. Eternally, the pure in heart shall see God face to face.** What a glorious and happy occasion!

**THE CHARACTER QUALITY OF THE PURE IN HEART IS HOLINESS.**

**5:9a Blessed are the peacemakers:**— Happy are those who **maintain peace**; bring men together in unity; the peace between men and God; solve disputes and erase divisions; reconcile differences and eliminate strife; silence tongues and build right relationships. There are **3 Types of People**:

- **Peace-breakers**: anyone who has lied, cheated, or done violence to someone else; treats someone else with cold indifference for no good reason.
- **Peace-fakers**: rather than addressing the problem decides to act as if there is no problem; voids all confrontation thinking that negative consequences are avoided, and there will be peace.
- **Peace-makers**: those being proactive and taking constructive actions to bring people together, and increase understanding between them. This requires losing the attitude of trying to justify ourselves and prove that problems and conflicts are all someone else's fault.

**P.E.A.C.E. — Pause Everyday Appreciating Christ's Embrace.** When you **Pause Everyday, you are determining whose in you**; when you **Appreciate Christ's Embrace, you are determining whose holding you**— Christ on the inside by His Spirit is holding you in a holding pattern that keeps you balanced, keeps you of sound mind, and keeps your focus right. And those who proclaim to be peacemakers are rewarded.

**5:9b The Promise...for they shall be called the children of God.** The children of God are the ones who have the life-changing qualities herein described as citizens of His kingdom. They will be known and recognized as what they really are – children of God. If we are His children, we pattern our lives by His, and we should be happy doing that.

**THE CHARACTER QUALITY OF THE PEACEMAKER IS RECONCILIATION.**

**5:10a Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake:**— Happy when **persecuted for righteousness sake**? Have I got that right? *Well, we are to endure suffering for Christ; be mocked, ridiculed, criticized, and ostracized; treated with hostility; to be martyred? 2Timothy 3:12 says, "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ, Jesus shall suffer persecution."* <sup>6</sup>To be persecuted for something we have done wrong is one thing, but to be persecuted because we are, to the best of our ability, serving God is something else.

<sup>5</sup> <http://andychristensen.wordpress.com/2008/06/19/peace-breaker-peace-faker-or-peacemaker/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/matthew/10.html>





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- Believers shall suffer persecution because they are not of this world.
- Believers shall suffer persecution when they demonstrate a life of righteousness.
- Believers shall suffer persecution because the ungodly of the world want no God other than themselves and their own imaginations.
- Believers shall suffer persecution because the world thinks that God protects, provides, and gives no matter what a person's behavior is, just so the behavior is not too far out.

Matthew says I'm blessed when persecuted for righteousness sake. James says count it all joy when I fall into divers temptations. This tells me that God will provide for those who lose for Him for righteousness sake; I shall not lose by Him in the end for righteousness sake. The righteousness that we are doing is not the righteousness of man, but it is the righteousness of God. It's "*for my (His) sake...*" **5:11**. It is the righteousness of Christ that's imparted within us that we are being persecuted for. Why? Because the moment you become a Christian and you begin to reflect the character of Christ, then you become actively involved in the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan. Satan, who is the prince of this world, looks at you as a traitor. He looks at you as an enemy. And since the whole world is under him (1 John 5:19), he will use the world to persecute you, not for being bad, but for being good. And when that happens, don't give up, because it says,...

**5:10b ...for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.** This is like verse 3 when Jesus talks about the "*poor in spirit.*" You haven't lost anything by being persecuted; you've actually gained much more, and that is the Kingdom of heaven, not the Kingdom in heaven. The word "**of**" denotes possession, not location: It is rather to the literal reigning of Jesus Himself on and over this earth in fulfillment of the covenants God made with the nation of Israel. Therefore, we have possession of the coming Millennial Kingdom's rule. And to possess anything that God possesses should bring a joy within, even after going through a phase of persecution.

**THE CHARACTER QUALITY OF THE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE IS COMMITMENT.**

**5:11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.** Jesus tells us three major kinds of persecution that we are to be happy in. What's hard about this is that we all like to be liked. We don't want to be reviled, persecuted or have evil spoken against us.

1. **Being reviled:** verbally abused, insulted, scolded, mocked (cruel mockings, Hebrews 11:36).
2. **Persecuted:** hurt, ostracized, attacked, tortured, martyred, and treated with hostility.
3. **Having all manner of evil spoken against:** slandered, cursed, and lied about (cp. Psalm 35:11; Acts 17:6-7; cp. "hard speeches," that is, harsh, defiant words, Jude 15).

The happiness comes when our eyes are taken off of earthly rewards; when it strips away superficial believers; when it strengthens our faith when we endure; and when it serves as an example to others who may follow us—only for Christ's sake. God knows and sees, that's why we can faithfully endure.

**THE CHARACTER QUALITY OF THE REVILED, THE PERSECUTED, AND HAVING EVIL SPOKEN AGAINST YOU IS PATIENCE.**

**5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.** People had abused, mocked, attacked cruelly, lied on, and spoken harshly against the prophets. Isaiah is said to have been sawed asunder; Jeremiah was thrown into a dungeon and threatened with death; Elijah was hunted by Ahab and Jezebel. There were physical and personal attacks even upon the disciples, and from this the blood of the martyrs became the seed of the church. During Jesus' ministry His persecution was for our good. The command to the believer is to rejoice; be over and above with gladness and celebrate, **for great is your reward in the kingdom of heaven:** Doing all that Jesus taught brings a joy knowing that He is in control and enables us to lean on Him.

<sup>7</sup>Actually, if we live according to the first seven Beatitudes, we will automatically experience the eighth. It's like an equation. If you are the person of verses 3-9, you will get the persecution of verses 10-12. Watch this:

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.pontiacbible.org/index.php?/sermons/more/the\\_blessing\\_no\\_one\\_wants/www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html](http://www.pontiacbible.org/index.php?/sermons/more/the_blessing_no_one_wants/www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html)





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- If you are “*poor in spirit*,” some will think you are self-righteous.
- When you “*mourn*” over sin, others will feel convicted and not want you around.
- The “*meeek*” person might be run over.
- When you break out of the spiritual status quo and “*hunger and thirst*” for God’s righteousness, some will label you a religious fanatic and call you crazy.
- Be “*merciful*” and people will call you gullible.
- Strive to be “*pure in heart*” and feel the tension of a world that lives on lust.
- Strive to be a “*peacemaker*” and get ready for war.

You are making a difference in this world, and you will be sure to be rewarded in the next.

## III. RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE WORLD MATTHEW 5:13-16

**5:13** **Ye are the salt of the earth, but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall It be salted?** — Now, Jesus shifts this portion of the Beatitudes of what happens to the blessed believers and what they will receive, to how they will influence others as salt and light. This part indicates that only the genuinely born-again Christian affirming that You are the salt of the earth! You are the salt used to purify the earth. The physical salt **adds flavoring**, acts as a preservative, melts coldness, and heals wounds. But the Spiritual salt upon the earth You will give testimony in the earth; You will tell of the goodness of God that changes hearts and lives in the earth! You are the salt which will spread salvation in the earth. The term “**lose its savor**” refers to its essential saltiness. And if the salt loses its saltiness, where shall the earth be salted? If the salt loses its power, how shall the earth hear the Word that has power to change hard hearts? That means our walk hasn’t matched our talk. So, if Christian make no effort to have an effect on the world around them, they are devaluing what God has placed in them. They are forgetting Jesus said “**Go ye...**” They’re forgetting they have the keys to the kingdom. If we are too much like the world, we are worthless. It’s our seasoning, our words Jesus has given that makes it all worthwhile.

**5:13b** **It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.** If the salt has lost its saltiness, its savor; its testimony; its presence in the world, it is worthless. The implication of this statement is that our effectiveness, our testimony, our words will be cast out; thrown out, and trampled under the feet of men—not heard; laughed at; not received. We must stay on fire, because lukewarm Christians will not make the final cut. God will spew lukewarm Christians out like lukewarm water. Sold out Christians are to salt the earth with the Word!

**5:14** **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.** Again, a point blank affirmation of who they are: You are the light of the world. The salt will purify the earth, and the light shines to overcome darkness. This Light of Jesus should be so brightly shining, that no one need ask if you are saved; but they should be quick to see the glow of this Light within you. It will be visible! Sin has a way of being hidden in the darkness, but when the Light is applied, darkness has to go. You are the light only in Christ Jesus. Christ is the “*true*” or “*original*” light—the Light of the World! Citizens of the kingdom are simply “*luminaries*” reflecting the One True Light, just as the moon reflects the sun. You cannot hide a city that’s lit on a hill. Its brightness will be seen just as Christians must be visibly seen. If we live for Christ, we will glow like lights, showing what Christ is like.

**5:15** **Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.** The word “*candle*” means any portable light, as a lamp, candle, or lantern. When people light a candle, they do not conceal the light, by putting it under a basket, but they place it where it may be of use. Inconsistent living and unconfessed sin in the life of the believer will become a basket-like covering which hides the light of God. Let your testimony be seen to all that hear it, so they could receive it. You’re lifting Jesus up, you’re giving testimony, you’re praising God, you’re declaring the Word of God, you’re casting down every thought that tries to exalt itself against the knowledge of God, you’re being bold and not timid, you’re building other up in the Word and Spirit, you’re call all to be saved, you’re calling all to turn away from sin, you’re calling all to be in unity with other saints, you’re penetrating darkness! You’re turning the kingdom upside down for God!

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**5:16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Let your light shine through a clean life before the Lord and before the world in which you live. And Why does light have to shine? **Light has the purpose** to shine before men to show forth good works and to stir men to glorify God. Those who see your good works may be brought, not to glorify you (which were the things the Pharisees aimed at, and it spoiled all their performances), but to glorify your Father which is in heaven means He has the spotlight; He gets the credit! The more light that is put out in the darkness, the more the darkness is eliminated. As believers glorify God, they will cause those in darkness to glorify Him. The glory of God is the great thing we are to aim at.

## SUMMARY:

Enormous crowds gathered, but Jesus pulled His disciples away from the crowds to a hillside; mountainside to hear His teachings, what is known as the *"Sermon on the Mount."* Jesus from this mountainside explains to them not to expect fame or fortune, but their blessings will come in a different kind of way. He says we are **Blessed** when **poor in spirit**, for we will have the kingdom of heaven— We are **Blessed** when we **mourn**, for we will be comforted— We are **Blessed** when we are **meek**, for we will inherit the earth— We are **Blessed** when we **hunger and thirst after righteousness**, for we will be filled— We are **Blessed** when we are **merciful**, for we will obtain mercy— We are **Blessed** when we are **pure in heart**, for we will see God— We are **Blessed** when we are **peacemakers**, for we will be called the children of God— We are **Blessed** when we are **persecuted for righteousness sake**, for we will have the kingdom of heaven. When we are reviled and all manner of evil said against you falsely for my sake, this is the time to rejoice and be exceeding glad, for there's a great reward in heaven; even the prophets before us were persecuted! They all bring for a character quality. You are making a difference in this world, and you will be sure to be rewarded in the next (5:1-12).

Now, Jesus shifts the Beatitudes of blessings and promises to how they will influence others as salt in the earth and light in the world. This part indicates that only the genuinely born-again Christian affirming that You are the salt of the earth! You will be used to help meet the needs in the earth. The physical salt adds flavoring, acts as a preservative, melts coldness, and heals wounds. But the Spiritual salt upon the earth will give testimony; tell of the goodness of God to change lives to come to God! And if the salt loses its saltiness, where shall the earth be salted? This next part describes the essential mission of the Christian to the world, and that is: You are the light of the word that will shine to overcome darkness. When we apply the Light, darkness has to go. You are the light only in the Lord, illuminating and reflecting off of the One True Light. And you cannot hide or seclude your light, just as you cannot light a candle and put it under a basket. Let your testimony be known to all that hear it, so they could receive it. Let your light shine through a clean life before the Lord and before the world in which you live. Light has the purpose to shine before men to show forth good works, and to stir men to glorify God (5:13-16).

## APPLICATION:

Come to Jesus to be taught as the disciples and the crowds did. Whatever builds our character blesses us for a reward. The reward is here and forever.