**Christianity – Simple or Complicated? #4**

***The beatitudes – What are they?***

*Are people that are blessed also people that are happy?*

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**Matthew 5 – The Beatitudes**

1When Jesus saw the crowds,

*The crowds…\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*What do we have in common with them?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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he went up on a mountainside and sat down.

*The significance of mountains in the Biblical narrative.*

*Other important mountain moments.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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His disciples came to him, 2and he began to teach them.

*How much significance should be applied to this*

*description?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

He said:

3“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
    for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4Blessed are those who mourn,
    for they will be comforted.
5Blessed are the meek,
    for they will inherit the earth.
6Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
    for they will be filled.
7Blessed are the merciful,
    for they will be shown mercy.
8Blessed are the pure in heart,
    for they will see God.
9Blessed are the peacemakers,
    for they will be called children of God.
10Blessed 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. 12Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**We’ve Read Them. What Do We Do with Them?**

*First, let’s try to get a handle on, “Blessed.” In this context, what does it mean to be blessed? Who is blessed?*

*Is it a description of an emotional state?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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 *It is a state that is granted by God. What’s that*

*mean? Let’s think of being “Blessed” like this…*

*Were Adam and Eve blessed?­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Was Noah blessed?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Abraham and Sarah?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Joseph?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*How about Jonah? Was he blessed?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Exploring the New Testament – was Mary blessed?\_\_\_\_\_*

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*Was John the Baptist blessed?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Peter - How about him?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Here’s a tough one – how about Judas Iscariot?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*Was Saul/Paul blessed?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*How about the people mentioned in 1 Peter 2…*

9 You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

*Who is Peter referring to? Are these people blessed?\_\_\_\_*

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*The two questions we began with - In this context, what*

*does it mean to be blessed?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*Who is blessed?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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*If you are “blessed,” What kind of life should you expect? What did Jesus say?*

**John 10**

7Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. 9I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved ***[or, be safe.]***  They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

*What does a “fill life” look like? What did Jesus’ life look like?*



*Do you want a full life with all kinds of greens and reds? Or would you prefer a careful, moderate life – like the little yellow box with the question mark in it? Which kind of life has the “Blessed” in it?*