**Christianity – Simple or Complicated? #10**

***The beatitudes – A Third Interpretation***

 ***“Follow Me” #3***

*Finish this sentence - Do as I say, not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*When someone says this it is usually because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*When is this an appropriate instruction?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Earlier in this study of The Beatitudes, we suggested that*

*Jesus uses them as an\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Today, we may discover there is something more happening. Something that will transform our understanding of what we call, The Sermon On the Mount.*

*Here’s what we are going to do…*

*First, we’ll listen as Jesus’ describes what it means to be blessed by God.*

*Second, we’ll look at a snapshot from his life.*

***Are you ready? Here we go****!*

**Matthew 5 – (NIV)**

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

**Matthew 26: 36Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” 37He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”**

**Luke 22: 42“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” 43An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. 44And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.**

 *Is this how it looks to be poor in spirit?*

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

**John 11: 32When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”**

**33When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 34“Where have you laid him?” he asked.**

**“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.**

**35Jesus wept.**

**Matthew 27:45From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. 46About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, *“Eli, Eli,*[**[**c**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matt+27&version=NIV#fen-NIV-24176c)**] *lema* *sabachthani?”* (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”**

*Is this how it looks to mourn?*

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

**Matthew 27: 11Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”**

**“You have said so,” Jesus replied.**

**12When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. 13Then Pilate asked him, “Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?” 14But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.**

**Mark 15: 27They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. 29Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, 30come down from the cross and save yourself!” 31In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! 32Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.**

*Is this how it looks to be meek?*

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

**Matthew 4: 4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted[ by the devil. 2After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”**

**4Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’**

**Luke 19: 5When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” 6So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.**

**7All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”**

**8But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”**

**9Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”**

*Is this how it looks to hunger and thirst after righteousness?*

*That’s just half of The Beatitudes and we are out of time. But do you see want Jesus is doing?*

*Yes, The Beatitudes are the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*But more importantly, way more importantly, they are*

*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

***And the implications are huge!***

*Don’t worry. I haven’t forgotten this.*

*A Riddle – What two things do you have that you don’t realize you have, but use every day to do nearly everything you*

*do?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Or this…*

**Hebrews 4**

4 …since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven,] Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

**See you next week…**