

# The Blessed Life

Matthew 5: 3-10

*Shelly, after a brief introduction, I will read the scripture, after which you can put up the following points I have bulleted. They are not in their notes...*

- Notice anything repeated? “BLESSED”
- Notice anything strange?
- Notice any incentives?
- Are these blessings for here and now or when we are in heaven?

“Blessed” (makarios) means fortunate, lucky, happy; someone to be congratulated!

## **Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven**

*Blessed are those at the end of their rope who realize their spiritual poverty*

The flip side: Cursed are the self sufficient...

- The Laodicean church in Revelation 3: 17
- How dependent are you on God?

## **Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted (laugh)**

*Blessed are those broken over sin and its fallout; worldwide and personally*

The flip side: Cursed are those who deny or laugh off their sin...

- Does sin bother you much?

## **Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth**

*Blessed are those who harness their power*

The flip side: Cursed are those who have power and abuse it...

- Are you living under the control of the Holy Spirit?

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

*Blessed are those who want their inside world – mind and heart – put right*

The flip side: Cursed are those who hunger and thirst for temporary pleasures....

- What is the level of your desire to pursue God?

## **Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy**

*Blessed are those who could be cruel but show kindness instead*

The flip side: Cursed are the merciless; your judgment will be so familiar (James 2: 13)

- the “fault box”
- Is there someone you are unwilling to forgive?

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

The flip side: Cursed are the dark hearted....

- What's inside your heart?

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God**

The flip side: Cursed are the troublemakers, for they will be called sons of Satan

- Do you stir up dissension? Watch out! (Proverbs 6: 19)

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

The flip side: Cursed are those who avoid being labeled a believer

- Weaklings to warriors – Acts 5: 41.....what happened to them??
- Are you hiding your faith or is it evident?