

THE BLESSED

Blessed are all who fear the Lord

Day 1

Psalm 128:1

Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him.

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 1:7). To fear the Lord is to hate evil (Proverbs 8:13).

We are blessed when we fear the Lord. We are blessed when we walk in obedience to him. When we will understand the fear of the Lord?

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding - indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. (Proverbs 2:1-5)

Application

Read Psalm 128 and pray through it.

Blessed are the poor in spirit

Day 2

Matthew 5:3

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

To be poor in spirit means to be humble, to have a correct estimate of oneself. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. (Romans 12:3)

The poor in spirit recognize that they have no spiritual assets. They know they are spiritually bankrupt. The poor is someone who must beg for whatever they have or get.

The kingdom of heaven is not given on the basis of race, earned merits, the military zeal and the wealth. It is given to the poor; they know they can offer nothing and do not try. They cry for mercy.

Application

What are we holding on to, what are some things that are difficult for us to give up? Ask God for mercy.

Blessed are those who mourn

Day 3

Matthew 5:4

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

Jesus does not speak of casual sorrow for the consequences of our sin, but a deep grief before God over our fallen state. The weeping is for the low and needy condition of both the individual and society; but with the awareness that they are low and needy because of sin. Those who mourn actually mourn over sin and its effects.

This mourning is the godly sorrow that produces repentance to salvation that Paul described in 2 Corinthians 7:10, Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

Those who mourn over their sin and their sinful condition are promised comfort. God allows this grief into our lives as a path, not as a destination.

Application

What are some sins you can see in you, your family, your society? Pray for deliverance.

Blessed are the meek

Day 4

Matthew 5:5

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

Meekness is not weakness. It refers to power under control. The best illustration to understand meekness is horse for war. Imagine these two scenes:

Scene 1: You are riding the horse. The horse will carry you, wherever you take. The horse will surrender to all your instructions.

Scene 2: You are the horse. Will you carry Jesus wherever He takes you? Think about some rough rocky places, climbing up the mountain, wading through the streams, facing all those arrows, enemies.... Will you carry Jesus?

We can only be meek, willing to control our desire for our rights and privileges because we are confident God watches out for us, that He will protect our cause. The meek will inherit the earth.

Application

Thank God for watching over you. Remember the victories God has given you in your life because you were meek and praise Him.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

Day 5

Matthew 5:6

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

Physical hunger and thirst are natural in a healthy person. It shows health, it is real, intense, can cause pain, can drive a man...

This is a longing that endures and is never completely satisfied on this side of eternity. We see Christians hungering for many things: power, authority, success, comfort, happiness – but how many hunger and thirst for righteousness?

Jesus promised to fill the hungry; to fill them with as much as they could eat. This is a strange filling that both satisfies us and keeps us longing for more.

Application

When was the last time you were in hunger and thirst for righteousness? What are you hungry and thirsty for? Pray through it.

Blessed are the merciful

Day 6

Matthew 5:7

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

When this beatitude addresses those who will show mercy, it speaks to those who have already received mercy.

The merciful one will show it to those who are weaker and poorer. The merciful one will always look for those who weep and mourn. The merciful one will be forgiving to others, and always looking to restore broken relationships. The

merciful one will not expect too much from others. The merciful one will be compassionate to those who are outwardly sinful.

If you want mercy from others – especially God – then you should take care to be merciful to others.

Application

With whom / what situation we struggle to show mercy. How are you planning to make a difference today?

Blessed are the pure in heart

Day 7

Matthew 5:8

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

How do we know something is pure? Sometimes in our understanding water is pure if it is transparent. We can say milk is pure, may be after tasting it. So we have different measures to say something is pure.

Can we say we have a pure heart, when we are able to see God in every thing, God in every situation, God in every relationships...? (Titus 1:15) To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.

(Ecclesiastes 7:14) When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: God has made the one as well as the other.

Application

Take time to think about the difficult situations you face and find out why God has allowed it in your life. Ask God to help you see Him in everything you face.

Blessed are the peacemakers

Day 8

Matthew 5:9

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

This does not describe those who live in peace, but those who actually bring about peace, overcoming evil with good. One way we accomplish this is through spreading the gospel, because God has entrusted to us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18). In evangelism we make peace between man and the God whom they have rejected and offended.

The reward of peacemakers is that they are recognized as true children of God. They share His passion for peace and reconciliation, the breaking down of walls between people.

Application

Have plans to spread the gospel.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness

Day 9

Matthew 5:10

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

It is not easy to be a dedicated Christian. Our society is not a friend to God nor to God's people. Whether we like it or not, there is conflict between us and the world. Why? Because we are different from the world and we have different attitudes.

We must feel blessed because of those persecution as we belong to the kingdom of heaven.

Application

Remember the persecutions that you have faced in life and give glory to God.

Blessed are you when people insult you...

Day 10

Matthew 5:11-12

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

Jesus brings insults and spoken malice into the sphere of persecution. We cannot limit our idea of persecution to only physical opposition or torture.

The world persecutes these good people because the values and character expressed in these Beatitudes are so opposite to the world's manner of thinking. Our persecution may not be much compared to others, but if no one speaks evil of you, are these Beatitudes traits of your life?

As the scripture goes, let us do our best to rejoice and be glad, because great is our reward in heaven.

Application

What is our response when we are insulted? What changes can we make from our side when we go through it again?

Psalm 106:2-3

Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? Who can declare all His praise? Blessed are those who keep justice, and he who does righteousness at all times!

Those who walk in obedience to God (keep justice, does righteousness at all times) do their part in declaring God's praise.

What does the Lord require of us? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

Application

List few areas of yesterday that you could have handled better and pray through it.

Psalm 112:1

Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in his commands.

This blessed one does not fear God in a sense of misery and reluctant obligation. This psalm speaks of one who delights greatly in God's commandments.

The man who duly fear God, is delivered from every other fear; the man who delights in God's commandments, is freed from every inordinate desire of earthly things.

This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world (1 John 5:2-4).

Application

What are some scriptures which you feel burdensome, may be now or in the past? Pray through it.

Proverbs 3:13

Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding

No precious jewels or earthly treasures are worthy to be compared with true wisdom, whether the concerns of time or eternity be considered.

We must make wisdom our business; we must venture all in it, and be willing to part with all for it.

This Wisdom is the Lord Jesus Christ and his salvation, sought and obtained by faith and prayer.

Application

What efforts are you making to find wisdom and gain understanding?

Psalm 89:15

Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O LORD, in the light of Your countenance.

Those who know the joyful sound of this truth – of God in His incomparable might, His righteousness and justice, and His mercy and truth – are a blessed people, and blessed in many ways.

To walk in the light is simply to have the consciousness of the divine Presence and the experience of the divine lovingkindness and friendship as a road on which we travel our life's journey, or an atmosphere round us in which all our activities are done and in which we ever remain, as a diver in his bell, to keep evil and sin from us.

Application

Take time to think about the best of 'walking in the light' in your life and see how you can grow in that more.

Psalm 41:1

Blessed are those who have regard for the weak; the Lord delivers them in times of trouble.

The people of God are not free from poverty, sickness, or outward affliction, but the Lord will consider their case, and send due supplies. From his Lord's example the believer learns to consider his poor and afflicted brethren.

There are plenty around you, who, if not poor in the things of this world, are poor in love and hope and the knowledge of God.

The compassionate lover of the poor and weak think for others and therefore God will think for him. God measures to us with our own bushel.

Application

Do something special for the poor / weak.

Blessed are those who are watching daily at my doors

Day 16

Proverbs 8:34

Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway.

This blessing comes to those who not only listen to wisdom but are willing to inconvenience themselves to seek her. They are willing to watch daily at her gates and wait at the posts of her doors. Their pursuit of wisdom is intentional, not accidental.

Surely, we should hear to Christ's voice with the readiness of children. Blessed are those who hear the Savior's voice, and wait on him with daily reading, meditation, and prayer.

Application

Do we need to grow in our meditation of God's word? Have plans to improve.

Blessed are those whose hearts are set on pilgrimage

Day 17

Psalm 84:5

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.

The man who finds his strength in God is also the one whose heart is set on pilgrimage. He does not rely on self or the world for strength, but considers himself a visitor, a traveler, a pilgrim in this world. His true strength and treasure are in the world to come.

The other things which could have possibly offended during Jesus time are Christ's birth, at the poverty of his parents, at the manner of his birth, by a virgin and at the place of his birth, which they thought to be Galilee, may be at his mean appearance and so on.

Application

When somebody brings God's word to us, what are the areas that offends us looking at the person? Pray through it.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord

Day 20

Psalm 33:12

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance

Israel was happy in the worship of the only true God. It was the blessedness of the chosen nation to have received a revelation from Jehovah. While others groveled before their idols, the chosen people were elevated by a spiritual religion which introduced them to the invisible God, and led them to trust in him.

We are selected to no mean estate, and for no ignoble purpose: we are made the peculiar domain and delight of the Lord our God. Being so blessed, let us rejoice in our portion, and show the world by our lives that we serve a glorious Master.

Application

Pray for our nation.

Blessed is the one who always trembles before God

Day 21

Proverbs 28:14

Blessed is the one who always trembles before God, but whoever hardens their heart falls into trouble.

Sadly, reverence (trembling before God) and happiness (blessed) are not commonly associated together. The reverent man is often thought to be sour and unpleasant. Nevertheless, to the degree that one can be always reverent, he can be genuinely happy.

Reverence and hardness of heart are set as opposites. A man who hardens his heart will not be a truly reverent man, but he will fall into calamity (trouble) either in this life or the life to come.

Application

How do you see your heart - reverent / hardened? Pray through it.

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked **Day 22**

Psalm 1:1

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers

Does not walk ...nor stands...nor sits: The blessed man does not do certain things. There is a way he will not walk, a path he will not stand in, and a seat he will not sit in.

These may speak of thinking, behaving, and belonging. The righteous man and the ungodly man are different in how they think, how they behave, and to whom they belong.

Application

What would God say about us in this area? What changes we have to make to be blessed.

Blessed is the one who takes refuge in him **Day 23**

Psalm 34:8

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him

Taste and sight are physical senses, ways in which we interact with the material world. In some ways, faith is like a spiritual sense, and with it we interact with the spiritual world. To taste and to see are like trusting God, loving Him, seeking Him, looking unto Him.

Those who trust to themselves, and think their own efforts sufficient for them, shall want; but they shall be fed who takes refuge in the Lord. Those shall not want, who with quietness work, and mind their own business.

Application

Read Psalm 34 and pray through it.

Blessed is the one who does not look to the proud

Day 24

Psalm 40:4

Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.

The proud expect all men to bow down and do them reverence, as if the worship of the golden calves were again set up in Israel; but believing men are too noble to honor mere money-bags, or cringe before bombastic dignity. The righteous pay their respect to humble goodness, rather than to inflated self-consequence.

A man may be as poor as Lazarus, as hated as Mordecai, as sick as Hezekiah, as lonely as Elijah, but while his hand of faith can keep its hold on God, none of his outward afflictions can prevent his being numbered among the blessed

Application

List down few instances in your life when you relied on something more than God and pray through it.

Blessed is the one whom God corrects

Day 25

Job 5:17

Blessed is the one whom God corrects; so, do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.

A good man is happy though he be afflicted, for he has not lost his enjoyment of God, nor his title to heaven; he is happy because he is afflicted. Correction mortifies his corruptions, weans his heart from the world, draws him nearer to God, brings him to his Bible, brings him to his knees.

Though God wounds, yet he supports his people under afflictions, and in due time delivers them. Making a wound is sometimes part of a cure.

Application

Remember the times you have been corrected and pray through it.

Psalm 32:1

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven; whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit, there is no deceit.

In these first two verses, David used three words to describe sin.

- The idea behind transgression is crossing a line, defying authority.
- The idea behind sin is falling short of or missing a mark.
- The idea behind iniquity is of crookedness and distortion.

In the first two verses, David used three terms to describe what God does to put away sin.

- The idea behind forgiven is the lifting of a burden or a debt.
- The idea behind covered is that of sacrificial blood covering sin.
- The idea behind does not impute is bookkeeping; it does not count against a person.

The psalmist declares that the forgiveness of sin, of whatever kind – whether against God or man, whether great or small, whether conscientious or inadvertent, or whether by omission or commission – is to be found in God.

Application

Thank God for forgiving your sins.

Psalm 94:12

Blessed is the one you discipline, Lord, the one you teach from your law

The senseless and fools will never listen to God, but His people must. He will instruct and teach them from His word. All the chastening in the world, without divine teaching, will never make a man blessed; that man that finds correction attended with instruction, and lashing with lessoning, is a happy man.

“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one, he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son. Endure hardship as discipline”-Hebrews 12:5-7.

Application

Share to someone what God has taught you.

Psalm 144:15

Blessed is the people of whom this is true; blessed is the people whose God is the Lord.

David prayed as a wise and caring king, asking God for blessing upon his people in their common, everyday lives. Yet such blessings could only come to God's covenant people when they were loyal to God. When they looked to Yahweh as their only God and Master, rejecting all the idols of the nations, the promised blessings were granted – and God's people were happy.

It should be said of us as believers, blessed is the people whose God is the LORD. This is our promise and heritage as believers, followers of Jesus Christ.

Application

Pray through Psalm 144

Proverbs 28:20

A faithful person will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished.

This is true as a general principle; faithfulness and obedience to God's law brings blessings. It was especially true under the old covenant, where God promised blessings on the obedient and curses on the disobedient (Deuteronomy 27-28).

The one who hastens to be rich is almost always willing to cheat or compromise to gain wealth. God promises that this one will be punished, either in this life or the next.

Application

Read Deuteronomy 27-28 and pray.

Proverbs 22:9

The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

One important way to express our generosity is to give to the poor and needy. His generosity is simply sharing, for he shares his food.

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. (Proverbs 11:25)

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. (2 Corinthians 9:6)

Application

Share your food with another person.

Blessed are their children after them

Day 31

Proverbs 20:7

The righteous lead blameless lives; blessed are their children after them.

The greatest gift a parent can give to a child is for that parent to be a righteous, upright person who walks in his integrity. That one will create a home and atmosphere that will be a blessing to the child.

For a righteous man or woman, their upright living and integrity will be actually lived out. They will walk in their integrity, lead blameless lives.

Application

Think about how we can leave blessings to our next generation and pray through it.