

SOHL  
WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS



"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"

## Blessed are.....

November 6, 2017

**MATTHEW 5:3-10 NKJV** – (3) “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (4) Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. (5) Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (6) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. (7) Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. (8) Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. (9) Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (10) Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus Christ gave us the Eight Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew's Gospel was directed to an audience steeped in Hebrew tradition. The Gospel of Matthew stressed that Jesus is the Christ - or Messiah - foretold in Hebrew Scripture, our Old Testament, and that the Kingdom of the Lord is the Kingdom of God in Heaven. Jesus offers us a way of life that promises eternity in the Kingdom of Heaven.

The teachings of Jesus of Nazareth were simple but unique and innovative at the time of his life on earth. He began teaching about 30 AD during the ruthless Roman occupation of Palestine. At the time there were four major groups in the Jewish religion: the Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes, and the Zealots. Each group presented a different (INCORRECT) viewpoint to the Jewish people.

In contrast, the message of Jesus has always been one of humility, charity, and brotherly love. He teaches transformation of the inner person. Jesus presents the Beatitudes in a positive sense, teaching virtues in life that ultimately lead to reward. Love becomes the motivation for the Christian. All of the Beatitudes have an eschatological meaning, promising us salvation - not in this world, but in the next. The Beatitudes connect with a main theme of Matthew's Gospel, showing that the Kingdom so long awaited in the Old Testament is not of this world, but of the next - the Kingdom of Heaven.

Notice if you will, each Beatitude begins with “Blessed.” The word blessed is actually “*makarios*” in the Greek. What does this mean? Does it mean the same as when we say we are “Blessed?” Remember, Jesus is not talking about worldly possessions or worldly prosperity. Blessed refers to one being fortunate and happy to the extreme. For the next eight weeks we will embark on a journey to identify what Jesus means by “Blessed.”

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

JAMES 1:12

### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

While the Beatitudes of Jesus provide a way of life that promises salvation, they also provide peace in the midst of our trials and tribulations on this earth.