

# S.O.H.L.

## WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

*Pronounced "Soul"*

December 2, 2013

## Blessings

**MATTHEW 5:3 NIV – (3)** "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven".

In the passage above, blessed literally means "happy, fortunate, or blissful". Here it speaks more of a surface emotion. Jesus was describing the divinely bestowed well-being that only belongs to the faithful. Chapter 5-7 are known as the "Beatitudes." The Beatitudes demonstrate that the way to heavenly blessedness is opposing to the worldly path normally followed in the pursuit of happiness.

The worldly idea is that happiness is found in riches, merriment, abundance, leisure, and such things. The real truth is the very opposite. The Beatitudes give Jesus' description of the character of true faith. The opposite of self-sufficiency, this speaks of the deep humility in recognizing one's utter spiritual bankruptcy apart from God. It describes those who are acutely conscious of their own feelings of loss and hopelessness apart from divine grace. Jesus was teaching that the kingdom is a gracious gift to those who sense their own poverty of spirit.

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

JAMES 1:25

### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

Blessed is the man who seeks God's direction and follows it.

December 1, 2013

