

## **UPSIDE DOWN: The Beatitudes**

Lesson One • Matthew 5:1-2

### **A Blessed Life**

#### **How Would You Define a “Blessed” Life?**

#### **What Would It Take for You to Consider Yourself “Blessed”?**

“If only I were \_\_\_\_\_ then life would be good.”

“If only I had \_\_\_\_\_ then I’d be happy.”

“If only I could \_\_\_\_\_ then I’d have it made.”

### **A Blessed Life**

## **1. Culture’s View of a Blessed Life Is Centered on One’s ABUNDANCE!**

*I said to myself, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.”  
~King Solomon, Ecclesiastes 2:1*

*I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil. Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun. ~King Solomon, Ecclesiastes 2:10-11*

#### **Three Dead Ends to Finding Happiness:**

- Accumulating THINGS. Ecclesiastes 2:7-8
- Experiencing PLEASURES. Ecclesiastes 2:3, 10
- Achieving SUCCESS. Ecclesiastes 2:4-6, 9

*So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. ~King Solomon, Ecclesiastes 2:17*

*“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?” ~Jesus, Mark 8:36*

## **2. Jesus’ View of a Blessed Life Is Centered on God’s APPROVAL!**

*The LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn His face toward you and give you peace.’ So they will put My name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.” Numbers 6:22-27*

#### **The Beatitudes**

The Beatitudes are Jesus’ UPSIDE DOWN views on a blessed life.

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful, for they obtain mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
~Jesus, Matthew 5:3-10*

#### **A Blessed Life Is:**

- A blessed life is independent of CIRCUMSTANCES.
- A blessed life is related to a RIGHT relationship with God.
- A blessed life is meant to be a PRESENT yet future reality.

#### **See the Beatitudes for What They Are**

Words of CELEBRATION for followers of Jesus and words of INVITATION for fans of Jesus.

*And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: Matthew 5:1-2  
And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Matthew 7:28-29*