



## Sermon-based Guide for Reflection and Discussion

Week of  
**April 3**

### Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12

Matthew 5:1-12 is the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. Here, with the Beatitudes, Jesus begins teaching about the “kingdom of heaven.” He gives us a vision for life as God intended it to be; in right relationship with God and one another. In this sermon series we have explored examples of God’s power in contrast to the worldly notion of power. Here we have what Jesus said to teach us about the nature of God’s kingdom. The beatitudes run so counter to what we typically think of as being blessed. In our society, many of the values highlighted in the Beatitudes are viewed as weakness. They give a stark description of the “inverted power” of God’s kingdom.

### Questions:

1. If you heard somebody say, “I’m so blessed,” but didn’t know any other information, what would you assume they had recently experienced?
2. As the first major address of Jesus’ public ministry, what makes His opening (the Beatitudes) so compelling?
3. Which of the contrasts below most grab your attention?

<b>Kingdom of the World</b> <a href="https://gateway.redemptionaz.com">https://gateway.redemptionaz.com</a>	<b>Kingdom of Jesus</b>
Blessed are the <b>self-confident</b> , for they can accomplish anything.	Blessed are the <b>poor in spirit</b> , for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are the <b>excited</b> , for they’re doing awesome!	Blessed are those who <b>mourn</b> , for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are those who <b>do what they have to do to win</b> , for they’re unstoppable.	Blessed are the <b>meek</b> , for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who <b>hunger and thirst for success</b> , for they will get it.	Blessed are those who <b>hunger and thirst for righteousness</b> , for they shall be satisfied.
Blessed are those who <b>get even</b> , for nobody can push them around.	Blessed are the <b>merciful</b> , for they shall receive mercy.
Blessed are those who <b>look good</b> , for they will impress others.	Blessed are the <b>pure in heart</b> , for they shall see God.
Blessed are those who <b>stir up the action</b> , for they get lots of attention.	Blessed are the <b>peacemakers</b> , for they shall be called sons of God.
Blessed are the <b>safe</b> , for they will be comfortable.	Blessed are those who are <b>persecuted for righteousness sake</b> , for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4. Which description of being blessed (in the Kingdom of Jesus) do you find most challenging? Which do you think is most needed in our society today?