

BATTLES AND BLESSINGS

Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ²and he began to teach them, saying: ³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. ¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Matthew 5:1-12 (NIV)

❖ There will be BATTLES:

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33 (NIV)

1. Battles are sometimes SELF-INFLICTED.

"What have you done to bring this awful storm down on us?" they demanded. "Who are you?"

Jonah 1:8 (NLT)

2. Battles are sometimes GOD-DIRECTED.

"And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you... ⁷But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance."

Genesis 45:5, 7 (NIV)

3. Battles can turn into great BLESSINGS.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

The Be-Attitudes

❖ There Can Be Blessings:

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down.

Matthew 5:1a (NIV)

1. This sermon was preached to His new DISCIPLES.

His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying...

Matthew 5:1b-2 (NIV)

2. This sermon was to help His disciples understand how they were to be DIFFERENT.
"For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 5:20 (NIV)

3. This sermon was Jesus revealing to His followers the DEMANDS of following Him.
"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"
Luke 6:46 (NIV)

❖ The Promise of Blessings When We... Allow Jesus to CHANGE our HEARTS:
"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."
Matthew 5:3-6 (NIV)

1. Happy are those who realize they are SPIRITUALLY BANKRUPT.
"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 5:3 (NIV)

2. Happy are those who respond correctly to the destructive POWER of SIN.
"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."
Matthew 5:4 (NIV)

3. Happy are those who replace their EGO with the SPIRIT and POWER of GOD.
"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."
Matthew 5:5 (NIV)

4. Happy are those who recognize their DEPENDENCE on God and His WORD.
"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."
Matthew 5:6 (NIV)

❖ The Promise of Blessings When We... Allow Jesus to LIVE THROUGH US:
"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. ⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God."
Matthew 5:7-9 (NIV)

1. Happy are those who chose COMPASSION over CRITICISM.
"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy."
Matthew 5:7 (NIV)

2. Happy are those who strive to STAY CLEAN before the Lord.
"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."
Matthew 5:8 (NIV)

3. Happy are those who help others RESTORE their RELATIONSHIPS.
"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God."
Matthew 5:9 (NIV)

❖ The Promise of Blessings When We... FOLLOW JESUS Even When Ridiculed:

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Matthew 5:10-12 (NIV)

1. Happy are those who STAND STRONG no matter what others say.

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

Matthew 5:10 (NIV)

2. Happy are those who ENDURE, for they will be REWARDED in the end.

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven."

Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)