



Sermons of the Savior

Matthew 5:1-4

Lesson 1

Jesus' popularity had grown to the point where multitudes were following Him. For many, their goal was to experience physical healing. Jesus' purpose was higher. He came to *seek and save the lost*. The religious leaders taught the people that the kingdom of God was attained through righteousness; a righteousness based on external behavior such as obeying rules and regulations that could be measured by praying, giving, fasting, etc. In the Beatitudes and the pictures of the believer, Jesus described Christian character that flowed from within, rattling the understanding of all who came to hear Him - some into the kingdom, and some not; some into *blessing* and some not.

OBSERVATION: Read Matthew 5:1-4

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text.

Key Words: words that refer to the *Jesus*

Underline or highlight the phrases that begin with the word *blessed*

Underline or highlight, in a different way, the phrases that begin with the word *for*

3. Using the phrases you highlighted or underlined, complete the following chart:

Blessed are:	for:

CONSIDER THESE THINGS:

1. As Christians, we have heard many sermons. What are some important components of a sermon for you?
2. What are some of your thoughts as you consider “listening” to a sermon of Jesus’ as you study His “Sermon on the Mount”?
3. What are some ways people typically try to find happiness or fulfillment in life?
4. Describe a life that you regard as *blessed*.

PRIOR TO THE SERMON: Read Matthew 4:23-25

1. *And Jesus went about all Galilee...* About what did Jesus *preach*?
 - a. According to Romans 1:16, what is the *gospel*?
2. What activities was Jesus involved in during this ministry tour?
3. How would you describe the publicity surrounding Jesus’ ministry in Galilee?

Challenge: Locate *Syria* on a map and define its location.

4. List the afflictions of the people who were brought to Jesus.

- a. Place yourself in their position. How do you think you would have reacted to the stories about Jesus if you were afflicted or had a loved one who was suffering an affliction?
 - b. Which is worse in your opinion and why: to be physically ill or to be spiritually sick?
5. What did Jesus do for the suffering individuals who came to Him?
6. As a result of Jesus' healing the sick, *great multitudes followed Him*. What areas of Israel did they come from?

Challenge: On a separate piece of paper, draw a map and pinpoint each of these areas/cities.

OVERVIEW: Read Matthew 5:1-4

1. Reviewing the last verses of chapter 4, why did the *multitudes follow* Jesus?
 - a. The *multitudes followed* Jesus for *healing*. Yet, what was the focus of His words in this sermon? Matthew 5:1-4
 - b. Why is it significant that Jesus was able to heal all the ailments people brought to Him, before He taught about being *blessed*?
2. Read the story of Jesus healing the *paralytic* in Mark 2:1-12. Describe what happened.
 - a. What question did Jesus ask in verse 9?
 - b. Jesus answered his own question in the next verse. What did He say?
 - c. What was His point?
 - d. How does Jesus' statement in Mark 2:10 relate to Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5 after He healed people?

3. In your opinion, which is more difficult (and why): to heal a person physically or to heal a person spiritually?
 - a. If you could only choose one, which would you choose? Why?

THE POOR IN SPIRIT: Read Matthew 5:3

1. Matthew 5:3 begins a series of 9 statements beginning with the word *blessed*. Who are the first ones listed?
 - a. Typically, we do not associate the word *poor* with positive attributes. What are some synonyms for the word *poor*?
 - b. The word *spirit*, as it is used in Matthew 5:3, speaks of “man's immaterial nature which enables him to communicate with God, who is also Spirit” (Zodhiates). What does 1 Corinthians 2:14 remind us?
 - 1.) According to Romans 3:23, who is *poor in spirit*? (Who has fallen short of the glory of God?)
 - 2.) Therefore, **all** are *poor in spirit*. Jesus is referring to those who recognize this fact. Describe the many ways you realize your *spiritual poverty* without Jesus.
 - a.) Many would discourage us from admitting such a fact. How have you benefited from realizing and admitting your *spiritual poverty*?
2. What is the reward for those who are *poor in spirit*?
 - a. Why must a person admit their *spiritual poverty* to be able to enter *heaven*?

1.) Not only does this admission bring us to a place of recognizing our need for Jesus to be saved, it also affects the way we daily live. How so?

a.) In what ways have you discovered heavenly blessings in this life as you live recognizing your *spiritual poverty*?

THOSE WHO MOURN: Read Matthew 5:4

1. Again, *mourning* is not something we tend to pursue. *Mourning*, as it relates to being *poor in spirit*, describes one who sorrows over sin, particularly their own. Describe this type of *mourning*.

2. According to Matthew 5:4, what follows those who *mourn*?

3. Rather than punish, God loves to *comfort* those who *mourn* over their sin. Record some of the truths revealed in the following verses:

Psalm 32:3-7

Psalm 40:1-3

Psalm 116:3-7

Isaiah 57:15-18

4. What *comfort* have you experienced after *mourning over your sin*?

Observation Worksheet

Matthew 5:1-4

- ¹ And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.
- ² Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:
- 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.