



Sermon on the Mount Series

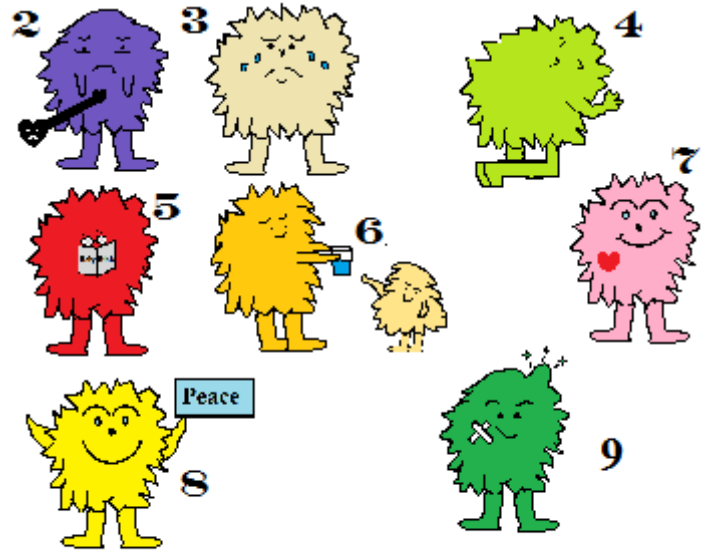
Beatitudes – The Seasons of Our Life

The Beatitudes as a weather forecast of the Christian life

Course Text: Matthew 5:1-10

Outline

<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Lesson 1 -	Introduction
Lesson 2 -	The Poor in Spirit
Lesson 3 -	Those Who Mourn
Lesson 4 -	The Gentle
Lesson 5 -	The Hungry and Thirsty
Lesson 6 -	The Merciful
Lesson 7 -	The Pure in Heart
Lesson 8 -	The Peacemakers
Lesson 9 -	The Persecuted



Blessed are

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In this series we will look at the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew. As you study these courses try to answer the question, "When and how does this apply to us?"

In this course, we will study the Beatitudes. I believe the Beatitudes were not something new, but simply Jesus teaching the people to better understand the Scriptures they already had, the Scriptures we call the Old Testament. I will also try to make the case that the Beatitudes are a description of sanctification, of our development as a Christian over time.

Suggested methodology for each course:

1. Allow time for greetings and fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the text aloud from the Bible one question at a time.
5. Answer and briefly discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer. Repeat 4 & 5 for all questions except the "Think & Pray" questions.
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This gives the Holy Spirit a time to speak, so don't rush it.** The class leader should watch for the pencils and pens to quit moving. Others can look at the "For Further Thought" questions while waiting for everyone to finish.
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer, when provided, are just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought"

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Lesson 1 - Sermon on the Mount Introduction

In this course, we will study the Beatitudes. I believe the Beatitudes were not something new, but simply Jesus teaching the people to better understand the Scriptures they already had, the Scriptures we call the Old Testament. We will study one Beatitude in each of the following lessons. I will also try to make the case that the Beatitudes are a description of sanctification, of our development as a Christian over time. But before we do all that let's look at a similar passage in Luke.

Read Luke 6:17-23 and Matthew 5:1-12 and complete this chart.

Question	Matthew	Luke
[1A] Where was Jesus?		
[1B] What was His posture?		
[1C] Who is blessed in the 1st Beatitude?		
[1D] Who is blessed in the 2 nd Beatitude?		
[1E] Who is blessed in the 3 rd Beatitude?		
[1F] Who is blessed in the last Beatitude?		

[1G] Why the differences?

Think & Pray _____

The Beatitudes

Matthew 5

mEEK

kingdom

REJOICE

peacemakers

earth

Blessed

heart

See Heaven

MERCY

comforted

persecuted

sons of God

mourn

poor

and thirst

GOD

BE GLAD

inherit *falsely accuse you*

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----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 1 - Sermon on the Mount Introduction

Question	Matthew 5	Luke 6
[1A] Where was Jesus?	<i>On a Mountain</i>	<i>Level Place</i>
[1B] What was His posture?	<i>Sitting</i>	<i>Standing</i>
[1C] Who is blessed in the 1st Beatitude?	<i>Poor in Spirit</i>	<i>Poor</i>
[1D] Who is blessed in the 2 nd Beatitude?	<i>Mourning</i>	<i>Hungry</i>
[1E] Who is blessed in the 3 rd Beatitude?	<i>Meek</i>	<i>Weeping</i>
[1F] Who is blessed in the last Beatitude?	<i>Insulted, persecuted & slandered</i>	<i>Hated, excluded, insulted and slandered</i>

[1G] Why the differences?

In the days when Jesus preached they did not have electronic recording equipment, videos, and most people could not read. To deliver the message widely He had to say similar things over and over again to different audiences. Clearly Jesus said different things to different audiences. The clue to what is going on here is the posture. A rabbi sat down, as He did in Matthew, for formal theological teaching. He stood up for more informal practical teaching, as in Luke. When it says in Mt 5:2 "He began to teach them" what it literally says is "He opened His mouth." This signified that He was speaking about something very serious. They are different because he had a different audience and a different purpose.

For further thought:

(1h) Continue to compare the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7 with the similar, but shorter, sermon in Luke chapter 6. Discuss the differences and similarities. Most of the rest of the similarities will be found in Matthew chapter 7.

Topic	Matthew	Luke
Mercy	Mt 5:7 & Mt 5:21-26	Lk 6:27-36
No Condemnation	Mt 7:1-5	Lk 6:37-42
Discernment	Mt 7:6 & Mt 7:13-23	Lk 6:43-45
The Foundation	Mt 7:24-27	Lk 6:46-49
Direct Quotes from, and references to, the Old Testament	Mt 5:12, 17, 27, 33, 38, 43 Mt 7:12	Lk 6:23 & 26
No overlap	Teaching on Giving, Fasting, Praying & Anxiety in Matthew 6	The woes in Luke 6:24-26

Lesson 2 - The Poor in Spirit

[2A] According to Matthew 5:3 who has the kingdom of heaven? _____

[2B] According to Isaiah 61:1 who is the recipient of the good news?

[2C] In Luke 4:16-21 who does Jesus say is doing the speaking in Isaiah 61:1.

[2D] According to Isaiah 57:15 what does the "High and Exalted One" do for the "oppressed and lowly in spirit." _____

[2E] What does Matthew 5:3 mean?

Think & Pray _____

**The poor in spirit
are blessed, for the
kingdom of heaven
is theirs.
Matthew 5:3**



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Lesson 2 - The Poor in Spirit

[2A] According to Matthew 5:3 who has the kingdom of heaven? The poor in spirit.

[2B] According to Isaiah 61:1 who is the recipient of the good news? The poor and brokenhearted

[2C] In Luke 4:16-21 who does Jesus say is doing the speaking in Isaiah 61:1. Jesus says He is the Me in the verse.

[2D] According to Isaiah 57:15 what does the "High and Exalted One" do for the "oppressed and lowly in spirit." He revives their spirit and their heart.

[2E] What does Matthew 5:3 mean?

Greek had two words for *poor*. One meant "reduced circumstances" or "not having very much." The other meant "destitute" or "without anything at all." The "poor in spirit" here was the second kind that meant without any spirit at all. None. This is how we begin our Christian walk. Without any spirit. Broken. Destitute in our soul. It is there, at the end of ourselves, that we find the doorway into the Kingdom of Heaven, Jesus Christ. Certainly it was that way with me. I was on the brink of suicide when I came to this place, this emptiness of heart and of self.

Matthew Henry seems to agree with me: "This poverty in spirit is put first among the Christian graces. The philosophers did not reckon humility among their moral virtues, but Christ puts it first. Self-denial is the first lesson to be learned in his school, and poverty of spirit entitled to the first beatitude. The foundation of all other graces is laid in humility. Those who would build high must begin low; and it is an excellent preparative for the entrance of gospel-grace into the soul; it fits the soil to receive the seed. Those who are weary and heavy laden, are the poor in spirit, and they shall find rest with Christ."

Others do not: "Ingenious attempts have been made to show a progressive development of thought, but such attempts smack of artificiality and contrivance. Little may be legitimately asserted, it would seem, except that these beatitudes view Christlike character from varying perspectives, emphasizing the loving righteousness which grace produces. Centering in that theme—the loving righteousness which grace produces—these behavioral principles reveal the attitudes which ideally stamp the disciple as a disturbing non-conformist." They go on to say "To find any tightly articulated structure in the passage, one suspects, is to engage in" putting our own ideas into the Scripture instead of letting the Scripture speak to us. <https://www.biblicaltraining.org/library/beatitudes-0>

For further thought:

(2f) In Matthew 5:3 it mentions the "Kingdom of Heaven." What does that mean?

(2g) Above I present two sides of a discussion about the structure of the Beatitudes. What do you think? See if you can come up with a theory of your own as we go through this course.

(2h) Compare Psalm 32 to Matthew 5:3. What is the same? What is different?

Lesson 3 - Those Who Mourn

[3A] According to Matthew 5:4 who will be comforted? _____

Read Isaiah 61:2-3.

[3B] What does the Lord's favor lead to for those who mourn? _____

What is provided for those that mourn?

[3C] _____ instead of ashes

[3D] _____ instead of mourning

[3E] _____ instead of despair

[3F] And what will those who mourn be called?

[3G] In Isaiah 57:18 what happens to the mourners?

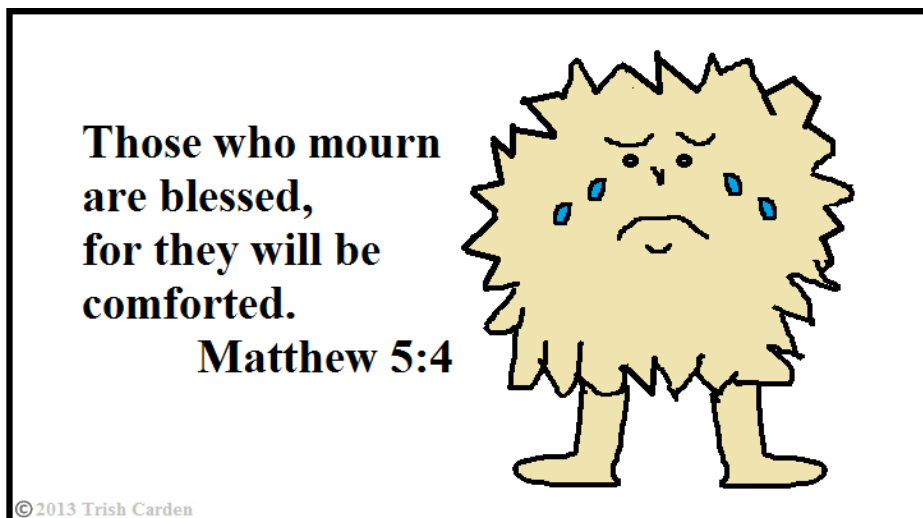
[3H] In Jeremiah 31:9 God brings back those who come weeping with what?

[3I] In Psalm 126:6 how will those who go weeping surely come back?

[3J] In Isaiah 25:8 who will wipe away the tears after death is defeated forever? _____

[3K] What does Matthew 5:4 mean?

Think & Pray _____



For further thought:

(3l) Do Psalm 40:1-3, Psalm 116:3-7 and Isaiah 12:1 better match Mt 5:3 or Mt 5:4?

(3m) In Isaiah 66:10 what are those to do who mourn for Jerusalem? Can happiness and rejoicing be a command? Does Jeremiah 31:16 explain how such a command might be obeyed? (See also Phil 4:4)

----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 3 - Those Who Mourn

[3A] According to Matthew 5:4 who will be comforted? Those that mourn.

Read Isaiah 61:2-3.

[3B] What does the Lord's favor lead to for those who mourn? Comfort Is 61:2

What is provided for those that mourn?

[3C] Crown of beauty instead of ashes (Crown might be symbolic of our salvation)

[3D] Festive oil instead of mourning (Oil might be symbolic of the Holy Spirit)

[3E] Splendid clothes instead of despair (Might be symbolic of our robe of righteousness provided by Christ)

[3F] And what will those who mourn be called? Righteous trees, planted by the Lord to glorify Him.

[3G] In Isaiah 57:18 what happens to the mourners? God restores their comfort.

[3H] In Jeremiah 31:9 God brings back those who come weeping with what? Consolation or comfort.

[3I] In Psalm 126:6 how will those who go weeping surely come back?

With shouts of joy and carrying a good harvest.

[3J] In Isaiah 25:8 who will wipe away the tears after death is defeated forever? God

[3K] What does Matthew 5:4 mean?

We crawl to the foot of the cross, regretting our sin and filthiness. For it is at that point we come to realize that we are the ones responsible for our spiritual poverty. We mourn over our terrible sinfulness, our complete wrongness. We like to forget that season of our Christian life. It is a dark and stormy season. But we do wrong to forget it, for in remembering it, we also remember His comfort and His love, which brought us through the storm.

Matthew Henry makes these distinctions in mourning: "There is a sinful mourning, which is an enemy to blessedness-the sorrow of the world; despairing melancholy upon a spiritual account, and disconsolate grief upon a temporal account. There is a natural mourning, which may prove a friend to blessedness, by the grace of God working with it, and sanctifying the afflictions to us, for which we mourn. But there is a gracious mourning, which qualifies for blessedness, an habitual seriousness, the mind mortified to mirth, and an actual sorrow for" sin, our sin, and the sins of others.



Lesson 4 - The Gentle (Humble)

[4A] According to Matthew 5:5 what will the gentle inherit? _____

[4B] According to Psalm 37:11 what will the humble (gentle) inherit? _____.

[4C] In Psalm 37:34 what must we do to inherit the land?
_____ and _____

[4D] In Psalm 25:8-9 who is leading the humble? _____

[4E] According to Psalm 149:4 who is adorned with salvation? _____

[4F] How does Zephaniah 2:3 suggest who might be shielded in the day of the Lord's anger?

[4G] What does Matthew 5:5 mean?

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

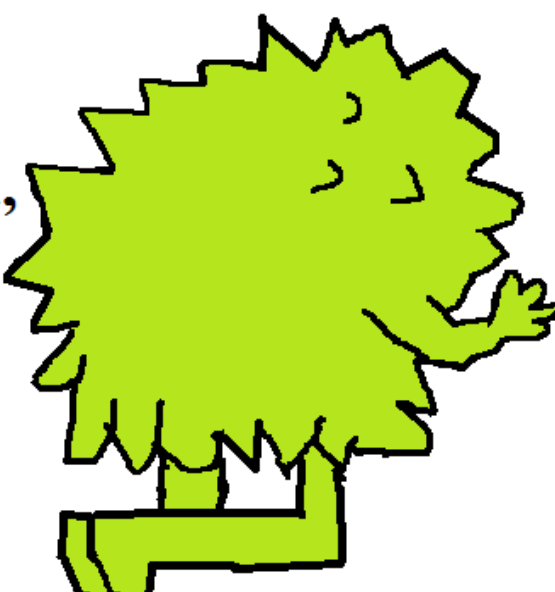
(4h) Read about Moses in Numbers 12:3. Did Moses inherit the land? Why?

(4i) Is gentleness/meekness/humility a personality trait or something we decide to do?

(4j) Read Matthew 11:28-29 and Philippians 2:5-11. What do they tell us about Jesus and what does that mean to us, especially in light of what He said in Matthew 5:5?

**The gentle are blessed,
for they will inherit
the earth.**

Matthew 5:5



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----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 4 - The Gentle (Humble)

[4A] According to Matthew 5:5 what will the gentle inherit? The earth

[4B] According to Psalm 37:11 what will the humble (gentle) inherit?
The Land (and will enjoy abundant prosperity.)

[4C] In Psalm 37:34 what must we do to inherit the land? Wait for the Lord and keep His way.

[4D] In Psalm 25:8-9 who is leading the humble? The Lord

[4E] According to Psalm 149:4 who is adorned with salvation? The Humble

[4F] How does Zephaniah 2:3 suggest who might be shielded in the day of the Lord's anger?
The humble of the earth who obey Him and seek righteousness.

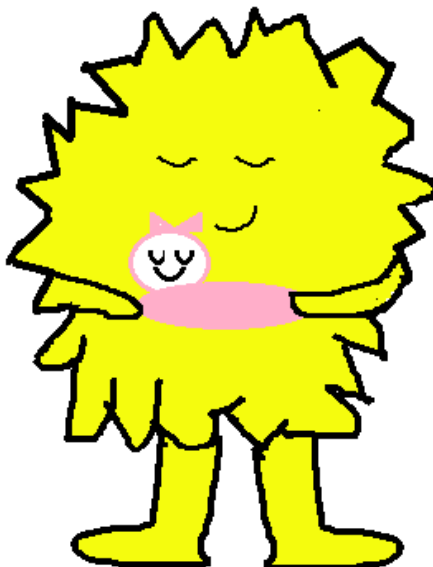
[4G] What does Matthew 5:5 mean?

Blessed are the humble, (as some versions have it) for they shall inherit the earth. We come to Jesus Christ with nothing to offer. We must lay down our pride and our arrogance. In return for our nothing, He gives us a heritage. That is what it meant back then when they said "inherit the earth." It meant you would leave a legacy to your descendants – basically the family farm. But Jesus is speaking spiritually/metaphorically here. He meant you would be used to bring others to Christ, that you would have spiritual fruit in heaven. How often we fail Him here. How often I pick up my pride and arrogance again. But His blessings never waiver. He never changes.

Matthew Henry defines the humble, meek or gentle in this way: The meek are those who quietly submit themselves to God, to his word and to his rod, who follow his directions, and comply with his designs, and are gentle towards all men (Tit. 3:2); who can bear provocation without being inflamed by it; are either silent, or return a soft answer; and who can show their displeasure when there is occasion for it, without being transported into any indecencies; who can be cool when others are hot; and in their patience keep possession of their own souls, when they can scarcely keep possession of any thing else. They are the meek, who are rarely and hardly provoked, but quickly and easily pacified; and who would rather forgive twenty injuries than revenge one, having the rule of their own spirits."

**The gentle are blessed,
for they will inherit
the earth.**

Matthew 5:5



Lesson 5 - The Hungry and Thirsty

[5A] According to Matthew 5:6 what happens to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness?

[5B] In Psalm 107:8-9 who satisfies those who are thirsty and hungry? _____

[5C] According to Proverbs 2:3-5 how are diligent seekers rewarded?

[5D] In Isaiah 26:9 what is being longed for and why? _____

[5E] In Isaiah 58:11 Who will satisfy us and make us like a watered garden? _____

[5F] In Isaiah 44:3 what four things are being poured?

(a) _____ (b) _____ (c) _____ (d) _____

[5G] What is the object of thirst in Psalm 42:2? _____

[5H] In Amos 8:11 what is there going to be a lack of?

[5I] What does Matthew 5:6 mean?

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

(5j) Psalm 63:1 likens longing for God with being thirsty. When was the last time you longed for God? Why? (See also Psalm 19:9-11)

(5k) Is Isaiah 55:1-2 talking about food and water or are they symbolic of something else?

(5l) Is Isaiah 65:13 talking about hunger and thirst or are they symbolic of something else?


(5m) Could the scroll fed to the prophets in Ezekiel 3:3 and Revelations 10:9-10 be the Lord satisfying their hunger for righteousness?

(5n) Read Matthew 4:4 or Luke 4:4 which quote Deut 8:3. If God's word is necessary to sustain life, doesn't it make sense that we should be hungry for it? Is that the same as being hungry for righteousness? Why or why not?

(5o) In John 4:14 & John 6:51 Jesus likens himself to food and water. Is it possible that the righteousness we hunger and thirst for is Jesus Christ? Why or why not?

(5p) At the institution of the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:17-34) Jesus likens himself to bread and wine. Should we hunger and thirst for the Lord's Supper?

Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are blessed, for they will be filled.
Matthew 5:6



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----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 5 - The Hungry and Thirsty

[5A] According to Matthew 5:6 what happens to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness?
They will be filled or satisfied.

[5B] In Psalm 107:8-9 who satisfies those who are thirsty and hungry? The Lord

[5C] According to Proverbs 2:3-5 how are diligent seekers rewarded?
Knowledge of God and fear of the Lord

[5D] In Isaiah 26:9 what is being longed for and why?
Yahweh (The Lord) so that people will learn righteousness.

[5E] In Isaiah 58:11 Who will satisfy us and make us like a watered garden? The Lord

[5F] In Isaiah 44:3 what four things are being poured? Water Streams Spirit Blessing

[5G] What is the object of thirst in Psalm 42:2? God

[5H] In Amos 8:11 what is there going to be a lack of? Hearing the words of the Lord

[5I] What does Matthew 5:6 mean?

<p>Twenty-five hundred years ago, Socrates was a great teacher, and people came from far and wide to be his student. A young man came to him one day and asked to be taught. Socrates, who was wise enough to discern the young man was not ready for the discipline of learning, led him into a nearby river and asked him what he wanted.</p> <p>"To learn the truth," said the young man.</p> <p>Socrates dunked him under the water for a moment, and when he let the young man up asked him what he wanted.</p> <p>"To learn the truth," said the young man.</p>	<p>Socrates dunked him under the water for a little longer, and while the young man was still spluttering asked him what he wanted.</p> <p>"To learn the truth," said the young man.</p> <p>Socrates dunked him under the water for twice as long, and while the young man was coughing and choking asked him what he wanted.</p> <p>"Air!" cried the young man.</p> <p>"When you want to learn the truth as much as you want air right now, come back, and I'll teach you."</p>
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What do you really want?

How badly do you want righteousness?

The new heart God puts in us when we are saved hungers and thirsts after righteousness. It is the food of the new man. Sometimes I feel it more than others. Sometimes I wonder if I am ever going to be the kind of man that pleases God. I wonder if I am ever going to get to the end of the day, lay my head on my pillow, and be pleased with everything I have done and said that day. I think I may have to wait for that last day when Christ returns and God gives me a new body, a body that does not even want to sin.

Lesson 6 - The Merciful

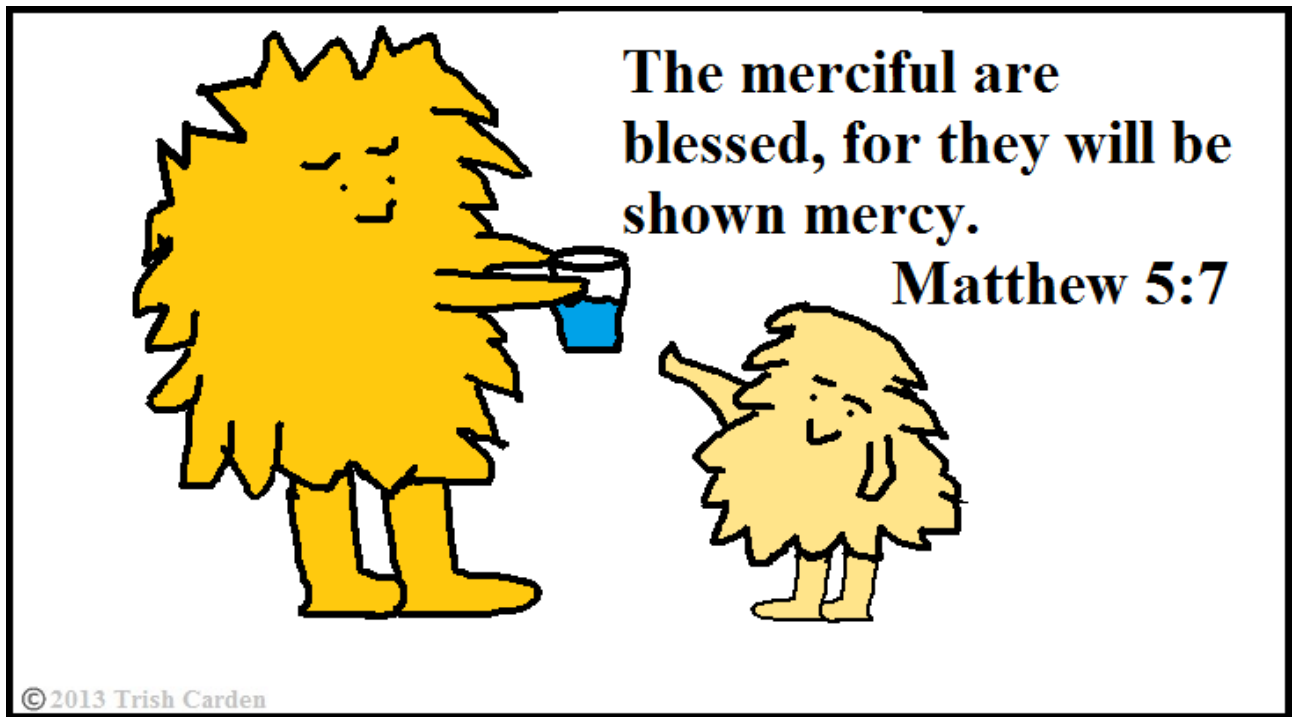
[6A] According to Matthew 5:7 what will the merciful receive? _____.

[6B] In Psalm 41:1-2 who is preserved by the Lord?

[6C] In Proverbs 14:21 what will happen to those who show kindness to the poor?

[6D] What does Matthew 5:7 mean?

Think & Pray _____



For further thought:

(6e) In 2 Samuel 22:26 and Psalm 18:25 the faithful receive faithfulness and the blameless man learns that God is blameless. Is it reasonable then to expect mercy from God if you show others mercy? Matthew 5:7

(6f) According to Proverbs 11:17 those who are kind receive the benefits of kindness. How does that work? (Hint: Proverbs 19:17)

(6g) In Job 31:16-22 seems to be making the argument that since he has been merciful, he should receive mercy. Do see it that way? Why or why not?

(6h) How is Isaiah 58:6-12 like Matthew 5:7 and how is it different?

Lesson 6 - The Merciful

[6A] According to Matthew 5:7 what will the merciful receive? Mercy.

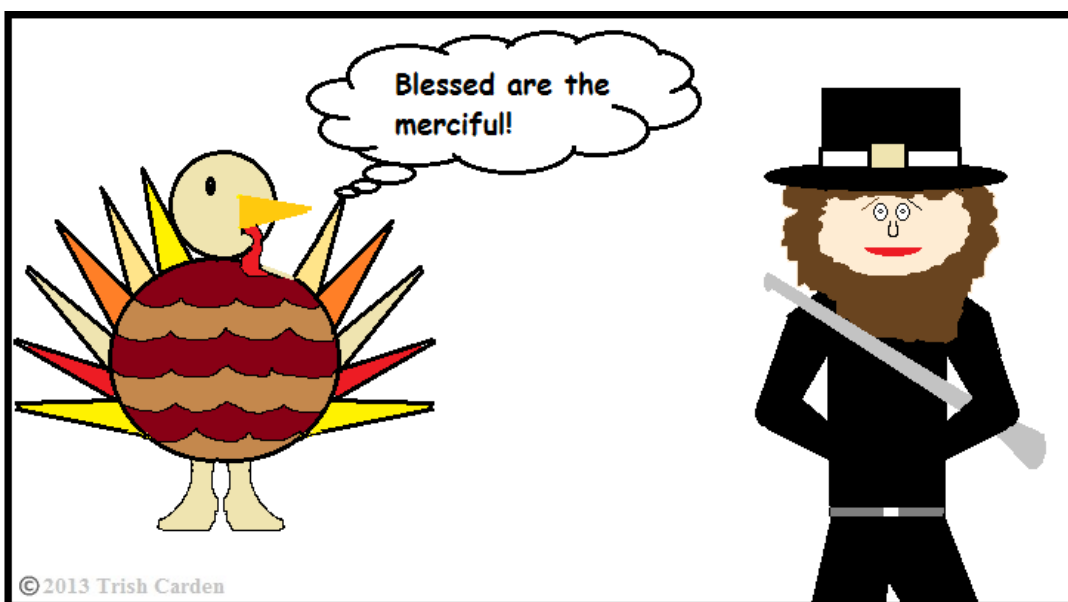
[6B] In Psalm 41:1-2 who is preserved by the Lord? Those who care for the poor.

[6C] In Proverbs 14:21 what will happen to those who show kindness to the poor? They will be happy

[6D] What does Matthew 5:7 mean?

When we came to the end of ourselves, poor in spirit, humbled, mourning over our sin, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, God had mercy on us and washed us clean of our sin in the blood of His own Son. He placed in us His Holy Spirit that we might know how to walk in way pleasing to Him. And yet, how often are we like the ungrateful servant who when forgiven much debt refused to forgive anyone else. (Matthew 18:23-35) God has graciously forgiven us everything, and yet we refuse to have mercy on others. We hold them accountable for all their faults, foibles, and follies.

Matthew Henry says about the merciful, "This, like the rest, is a paradox; for the merciful are not taken to be the wisest, nor are likely to be the richest; yet Christ pronounces them blessed. Those are the merciful, who are piously and charitably inclined to pity, help, and succour persons in misery. A man may be truly merciful, who has not wherewithal to be bountiful or liberal; and then God accepts the willing mind. We must not only bear our own afflictions patiently, but we must, by Christian sympathy, partake of the afflictions of our brethren; pity must be shown (Job 6:14), and bowels of mercy put on (Col. 3:12); and, being put on, they must put forth themselves in contributing all we can for the assistance of those who are any way in misery. We must have compassion on the souls of others, and help them; pity the ignorant, and instruct them; the careless, and warn them; those who are in a state of sin, and snatch them as brands out of the burning." Henry lists more in dire straights of various kinds.



Lesson 7 - The Pure in Heart

[7A] According to Matthew 5:8 who will see God?

[7B] According to Psalm 24:3-4 who can visit God in His holy place?

[7C] According to Psalm 51:10 how do we become clean?

[7D] In Psalm 73:1 who is God good to? _____

[7E] In Ezekiel 36:25 who is doing the purifying? _____


[7G] What does Matthew 5:8 mean?


Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

(7h) Explain Psalm 18:26.

(7i) Are Proverbs 22:11 and Matthew 5:8 related? How?


**The pure in heart
are blessed,
for they will see God.
Matthew 5:8**



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Lesson 7 - The Pure in Heart

[7A] According to Matthew 5:8 who will see God? The pure in heart.

[7B] According to Psalm 24:3-4 who can visit God in His holy place?
One with clean hands and a pure heart

[7C] According to Psalm 51:10 how do we become clean? God does it to us

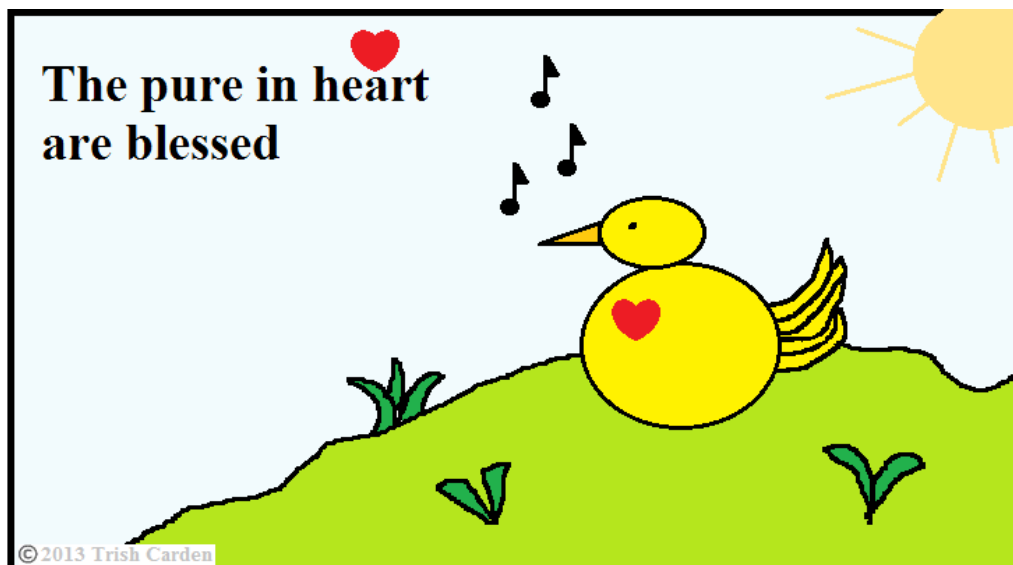
[7D] In Psalm 73:1 who is God good to? The pure in heart

[7E] In Ezekiel 36:25 who is doing the purifying? God

[7G] What does Matthew 5:8 mean?

Do you ever have pure in heart moments? I never have whole days of it, but from time to time I have these mountain top experiences, where my heart fully and truly worships God and I hold no rancor or revenge against anyone, only love. These moments are wonderful. They never last long, because I get proud of my purity, which of course brings it to an end. Like I said before, some day we will have it all day long, when we have new bodies and live with Christ as our light. We will see God and be purified by the sight. I long for that day.

Matthew Henry says this about the pure in heart: "Blessed are the poor in heart, for they shall see God. This is the most comprehensive of all the beatitudes; here holiness and happiness are fully described and put together. ... True religion consists in heart-purity. Those who are inwardly pure, show themselves to be under the power of pure and undefiled religion. True Christianity lies in the heart, in the purity of heart; the washing of that from wickedness ... Create in me such a clean heart, O God!" I really like the way Henry understands Who is the only one Who can purify us.



Lesson 8 - The Peacemakers

[8A] According to Matthew 5:9 what will peacemakers be called? _____

[8B] According to Psalm 34:14 we are to seek and pursue what? _____

[8C] In Haggai 2:9 who provides peace? _____

[8D] In Nahum 1:15 what is likened to bringing good news? _____

[8F] In Isaiah 9:6 what is Jesus the prince of? _____

[8G] What does Matthew 5:9 mean?

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

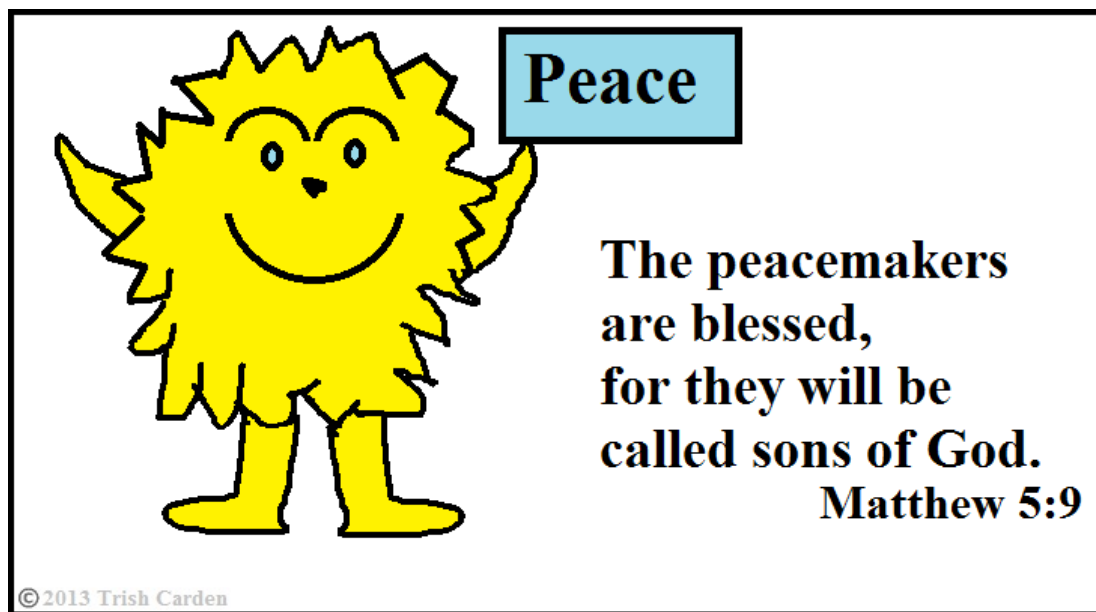
(8h) Is Malachi 2:6 an example of someone helping others make peace with God? Explain?

(8i) Is there any relationship between Luke 10:5-6 and Matthew 5:9? What?

(8j) In 2 Corinthians 5:20 is "ambassador for Christ" another way of saying "peacemaker?" Why?

(8k) Are Ephesians 6:15 and Isaiah 52:7 talking about peacemakers? Why or why not?

(8l) Is there any relationship between 1 Chronicles 12:17 and Matthew 5:9? What?



----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 8 - The Peacemakers

[8A] According to Matthew 5:9 what will peacemakers be called? Sons of God.

[8B] According to Psalm 34:14 we are to seek and pursue what? Peace

[8C] In Haggai 2:9 who provides peace? God

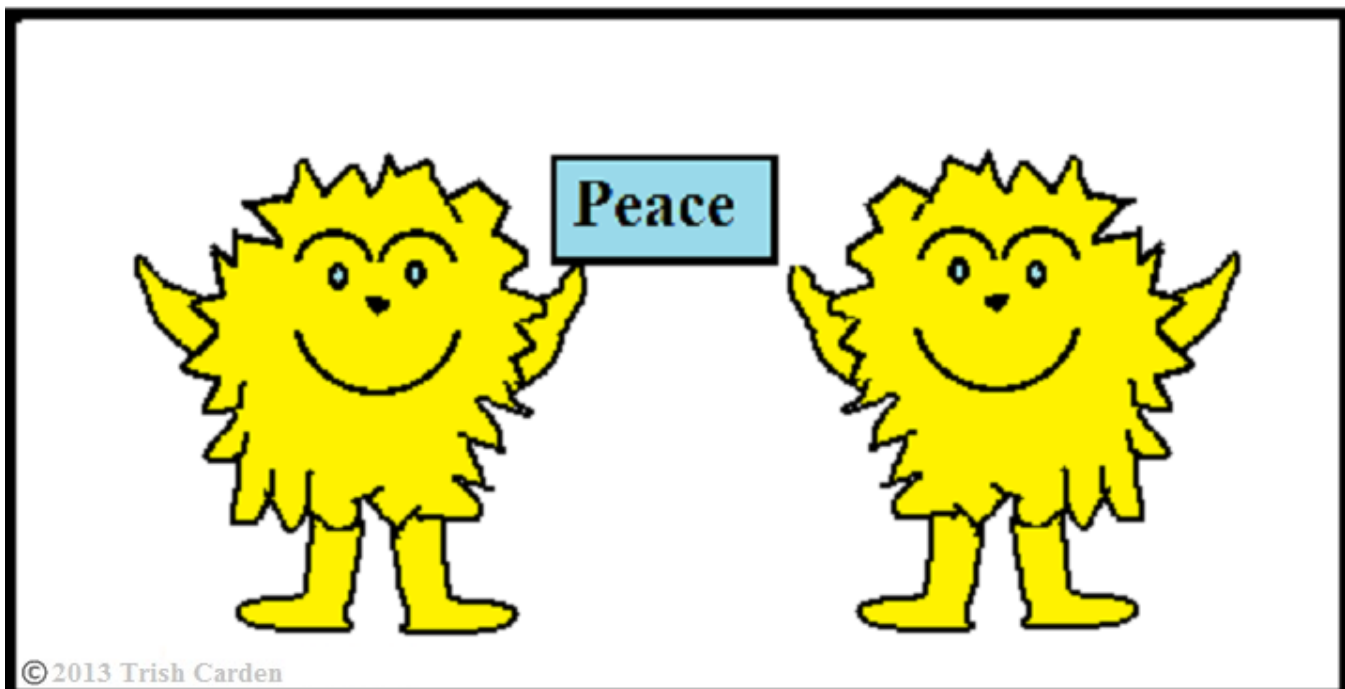
[8D] In Nahum 1:15 what is likened to bringing good news? Proclaiming peace

[8F] In Isaiah 9:6 what is Jesus the prince of? Peace

[8G] What does Matthew 5:9 mean?

I don't know about you, but most of the time when I try to help two people who are fighting to make peace, they both turn against me. Last year I had a woman seek my counsel about her marriage. I told her what I thought she needed to do, and she was offended by it. She told her husband about it, and now they both hate me. Me being their common enemy seems to have brought them together though, so I guess I was a peacemaker in that case. They called me some names, but none of them were "son of God."

Anyway I don't think it is talking about that kind of thing here. I think it is talking about helping people make peace with God. That is what Jesus, the Son of God, came to do – make peace between us and God. We, as Christians, have been given the privilege of helping in this work. Whenever we proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ we are offering peace with God. Jesus Christ died for our sins on the cross. He rose three days later and now sits, alive, at the right hand of the Father, making intercession for us. All we need to do is stop our rebellion against Him, repent of our sins, and give our life to Him. He will make peace with us and give us eternal life. When we announce this truth to the lost, we are peacemakers.



Lesson 9 - The Persecuted

[9A] According to Matthew 5:10-12 what should we do when we are persecuted?

[9B] In Genesis 50:20 how did God use Joseph's brothers' evil plans?

[9C] In 2 Chronicles 36:16 what stirs up God's anger?

[9D] What fails to make the Psalmist become disobedient in Psalm 119:157?

[9E] In Isaiah 66:5 what happens to the persecutors?

(9F) In 1 Kings 19:1-18 Elijah is persecuted. What is going to happen to those who persecuted him?


[9G] What does Matthew 5:10-12 mean?

Think & Pray _____

For further thought:

(9h) Do Ps 35:1, Ps 38:20, Ps 37:12 and/or Ps 119:71 Ps 119:161 give us any more understanding of Matthew 5:10-12?

**Those who are persecuted
for righteousness are
blessed, for the kingdom
of heaven is theirs.
Matthew 5:10**



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----- ANSWERS -----

Lesson 9 - The Persecuted

[9A] According to Matthew 5:10-12 what should we do when we are persecuted? Rejoice.

[9B] In Genesis 50:20 how did God use Joseph's brothers' evil plans?
For good, the survival of Israel (See also Gen 37:4)

[9C] In 2 Chronicles 36:16 what stirs up God's anger?
The ridicule of and scoffing at His prophets and messengers.

[9D] What fails to make the Psalmist become disobedient in Psalm 119:157? Persecution

[9E] In Isaiah 66:5 what happens to the persecutors? They will be shamed

(9F) In 1 Kings 19:1-18 Elijah is persecuted. What is going to happen to those who persecuted him?
They will be put to the sword 1Kg 19:18

[9G] What does Matthew 5:10-12 mean?

If we have enough of those pure in heart moments, if we exercise our mercy enough, if we offer peace to many lost, the demons of Hell, Satan himself, and his servants on earth will stand against us. God's hand on our life is not shown by wealth and health. It is demonstrated by stirring up evil against us. When this happens we are in good company – the prophets, the apostles, and Jesus Christ Himself. God blesses us by allowing us the privilege of fighting in the front lines with Him in this spiritual war -- a war that only He can win.

Conclusion - The Beatitudes - The Beginning of His Scripture (Old Testament) Based Sermon

Jesus' amazing Sermon on the Mount begins with these eight statements which must have surprised and astounded His listeners because they were so familiar, and because they were so unfamiliar. They are clearly quotes and allusions to well known Old Testament scriptures familiar to His listeners, but the truths embodied in these statements were not taught by the religious leaders of the day. These speak of grace and life. The Jewish religious leaders taught legalism and death. The "blessed" in their false doctrine were those who were healthy and wealthy. That mourning, poor, hungry people could be blessed was an unfamiliar teaching to His listeners. Their idea was that if you suffered in this life you deserved it. They did not understand God's grace at all.

These are the seasons of our Christian life. Lost and destitute in spirit we crawl to the foot of the cross, mourning because of our sin and filthiness. He comforts us there. We must struggle to humbly, meekly, and gently surrender our pride and arrogance to Him. The new heart/ new man God puts in us when we are saved, hungers and thirsts after righteousness. It is a desire only He can fulfill. God has mercy on us and cleanses us of our sin. He makes us pure, by placing His pure heart within us. Grateful, we take the message to others, becoming peacemakers between them and God. If we are effective at this, Satan will send his followers to persecute us. But the persecution is a badge of God's favor because it shows we are living for Him in a world that hates Him. These are the signposts along the path on which the Christian walks from being destitute of spirit to the front lines of spiritual warfare.

For further thought: How far along the road are you? How do you know?