



Saint James AME Church
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Rev. Ronald L. Slaughter, Senior Pastor

Women's Bible Study

Rev. Janelle Y. Greene, Minister to Women
First Lady Kyla Slaughter, Women's Ministry Advisor
Tuesdays at 6:30 PM

July 18, 2017
Rev. Janelle Y. Greene, Facilitator

Subject: The Recap of The Beatitudes

Scripture: Matthew 5:3-12 and Acts 5:17-42

Matthew 5:10-12 New International Version (NIV)

The Beatitudes

He said:

- ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
- ⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
for they will be filled.
- ⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
- ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
- ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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

Matthew 5:3-12 The Message (MSG)

You're Blessed

⁵ ¹⁻² When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge
crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were
apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed
with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down
and taught his climbing companions. This is
what he said:

³ “You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

⁴ “You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

⁵ “You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.

⁶ “You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.

⁷ “You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.

⁸ “You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

⁹ “You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.

¹⁰ “You’re blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God’s kingdom.

¹¹⁻¹² “Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for

comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don’t like it, *I* do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

Acts 5:17-42 (NIV)

The Apostles Persecuted

¹⁷ Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸ They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. ¹⁹ But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. ²⁰ “Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people all about this new life.”

²¹ At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.

When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles. ²² But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, ²³ “We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside.” ²⁴ On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief

priests were at a loss, wondering what this might lead to.

²⁵ Then someone came and said, “Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people.” ²⁶ At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

²⁷ The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. ²⁸ “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. ³¹ God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. ³² We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

³³ When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. ³⁴ But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. ³⁵ Then he addressed

the Sanhedrin: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. ³⁶ Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. ³⁷ After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. ³⁸ Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. ³⁹ But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”

⁴⁰ His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. ⁴² Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah. [New International Version \(NIV\)](#)

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[New Revised Standard Version \(NRSV\)](#)

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[The Message \(MSG\)](#)

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Recap of the Beatitudes

Background:

In Matthew chapter 5 we see Jesus interacting with his disciples; Jesus illustrates to us how God's kingdom should be equipped through the beatitudes and how our spiritual character may be shaped. These passages are called The Beatitudes; which means blessed. We learned in the previous lessons that there is a divine response of blessing; which represents the reaction from God. We are reminded that The Beatitudes are a framework in which we can look at how God thinks of these people whom Jesus is talking about to his disciples. Greek philosophers described the word "blessed" to mean "happy"; they also associated it with wealth or good fortune considering God's provisions which extend His grace. (Strong's Concordance 3107 *makarios*: blessed, happy). Blessed also means fortunate, happier (NASB Translation). However, we continue to ask the question "What makes us blessed **from God's point of view**? What is *the divine expectation* around our response? How are we blessed by God considering our responses? When we consider the Spirit of God whom we invited to dwell within us, how does that impact our heart, will and behavior? How does it impact the way we approach God?"

The Teachings of Jesus Christ:

Complete the chart below with the missing characteristics and blessings.

Characteristics

- Poor in Spirit
- _____
- _____
- Hunger and thirst for righteousness

- Merciful
- _____
- Peacemakers
- Persecuted for righteousness' sake

Blessings Received in Beatitudes

Receive _____

Will be comforted

Will inherit _____

Will be filled with God's _____

Will obtain _____

Shall see God

Are called _____

Received a great _____ in Heaven.

Questions for Review:

What is the meaning and significance of being poor in spirit?

How are happiness and being blessed different?

What did Jesus mean when He used the word mourn?

What does it mean to be meek? Is it a sign of weakness?

Read Acts 5: 17-42 What attempts were made to silence the growing number of followers of Christ (vv.17,18)?

What evidence do you see of God's sovereignty and protection upheld the apostles (vv. 19-20, 34-40)?

Even though God was with them, how did the apostles suffer (v.18,27,40)?

How can you count it all joy when you face persecution or insults because of your faith? Note scriptures.

Look back at the passage Acts 5: 17-42, in what ways do the disciples exemplify the character qualities of the Beatitudes?

Character Quality	Disciple's Action(s)
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Mourn

Meek

Hunger for Righteousness

Merciful

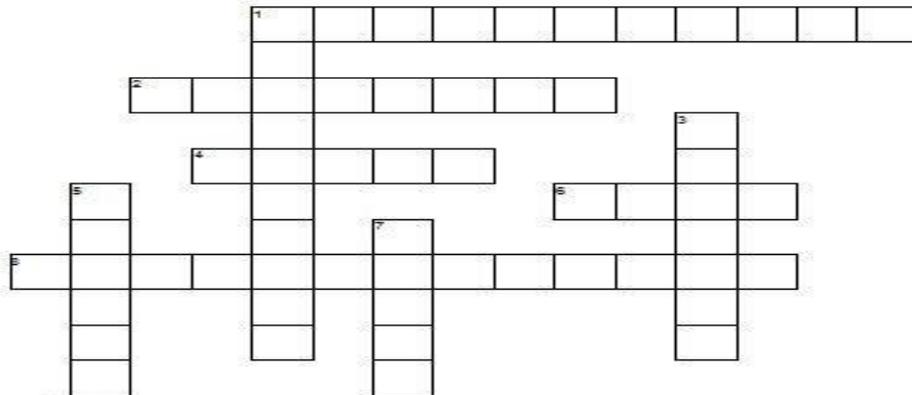
Pure in Heart

Peacemakers

Persecuted for Righteousness

Insulted because of Christ

Beatitudes



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ACROSS

- 1 Blessed are the _____: for they shall be called the children of God
- 2 Blessed are the _____: for they shall obtain mercy
- 4 Blessed are the pure in _____: for they shall see God
- 6 Blessed are the _____: for they shall inherit the earth
- 8 Blessed are those that hunger and thirst after _____: for they shall be filled

DOWN

- 1 Blessed are they which are _____ for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- 3 _____ are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
- 5 Blessed are the poor in _____: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- 7 Blessed are they that _____: for they shall be comforted

While You are at Home:

1. Consider the characteristics listed in The Beatitudes and make notes on your personal characteristics. Do you see yourself in how Jesus lays out the blessings that follow those with certain character traits? Meditate on the scripture and pray about where God sees you and how you see yourself. Spend time doing self-reflection; be honest about the positive things as well as the areas in which personal growth is needed.
2. In looking back at the Beatitudes how might growing in one of the areas help you to be ready to face the challenges in life?

As you reflect on the studies, reread the scriptures, engage in other research (do word searches in your Concordance) and consider the areas of Spiritual Character in the Beatitudes and how we cultivate and enrich our spiritual fruit.

Announcements:

****Women's Bible Study will be on *recess* in August 2017.**

****Women are encouraged to review the Women's Bible Study lessons on The Beatitudes and Fruit of the Spirit lessons that were taught in preparation for the fall.**

**** Women's Bible Study will *resume* on Tuesday, September 5th at 6:30 p.m.**

**** Women's night out in early September – *date and location TBA*. Invite another Sister, make it intergenerational.**