

Matthew

5:11

plus a review of the Beatitudes

HPC Trinity Class, May 4, 2025

*Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you,
and persecute you, and shall say all manner
of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*

Matthew 5:11

We have all seen many pictures like these, with Jesus preaching to the people during the famous Sermon on the Mount (MT 5:1-12). But we have some questions!



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(select the best answer)

Question #1:

Who was Jesus' audience on this occasion?

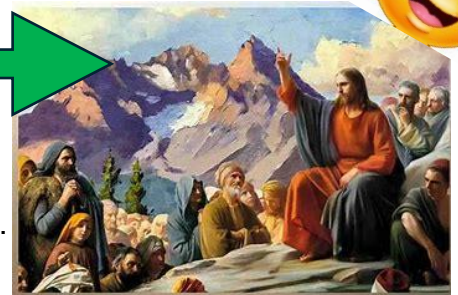
- A. Only Jesus' closest disciples.
 - a. According to Matthew, how many disciples did Jesus have now?
- B. Anyone who wanted to hear Jesus speak, which included the disciples.
- C. Whoever could afford the entry fee.

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Question #2:

Where was this "mount" and how high is it?

- A. Very high, as you can see in this picture.
- B. Not too high. The literal translation simply means "into the hill country."
- C. The Gospels (MT and LK) don't tell us where it was.





Question #3:

Why is Jesus usually pictured sitting when he teaches?

- A. No podiums were available then.
- B. Hiking up “the mount” probably tuckered Jesus out.
- C. Only when a rabbi spoke from a seated position did his words echo truth. When standing his words were unofficial.



You may remember from our previous lessons of The Sermon on the Mount (MT 5:3-10), all of Jesus’ beatitudes have been formulated by Matthew with the same pattern. They all begin with a blessing, and all are in the third person:

“blessed are THOSE who hunger...”

“...”THE MERCIFUL”

“... THE PURE IN HEART, etc....all in third person.

And except for v.10 they all finish with a promise for the future:

“...for they will...”

(In verse 10 Jesus declares that those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness have already achieved the kingdom of heaven¹.)



Not so with vss. 11 and 12– that’s why many scholars consider the Beatitudes to be concluded with MT 5:10.

Verse 11 does begin the same as the previous beatitudes:

“Blessed are...” (present tense)

but notice how the subject has changed: “Blessed are YOU. ...”



Verse 12 proclaims that we are to “rejoice and be glad” because heaven is our reward. The words “be glad” are compounded from the Greek and literally mean “to leap exceedingly.” We are to have unbridled joy when persecuted because we are following in the footsteps of the ancient prophets...and, soon enough, the footsteps of Jesus himself.


¹ Is it “kingdom of God” or “kingdom of heaven?”

Answer: they are synonymous.

In the OT we find “kingdom of God” used only once: 1 Chronicles 28:5. Written in @500 B.C., this was one of the last books allowed in the Hebrew Bible-- our Old Testament. Until then (and still today) Jews avoided using the divine name of God, YHWH. Thus, “heaven” became a substitute word. In NT times the terms were used interchangeably. Interestingly, however, of the four Synoptic gospels only MT uses the term “kingdom of heaven.” (*Interpreter’s*, vol. 3, pg.18)

Let's face it---

In our world today-- and even in Jesus' ancient world—many of the Beatitudes go against what society would see as positive traits. This packet of sermon material spoken by Jesus is not intended to “drive people to despair so they will then cast themselves upon the mercy of God, but to guide and direct those who desire to please him.”

So, now it's your turn. Take a few minutes to check ☒ or number  how you feel.

Matthew 5 Verse:	Blessed are those who are:		Most challenging for you	Most needed in today's world	Your favorite	Your least liked	Makes you uncomfortable <i>(ask yourself why!)</i>
3	Poor in spirit						
4	Mourning						
5	Meek						
6	Hungry for righteousness						
7	Merciful						
8	Pure in heart						
9	Peacemakers						
10-12	Persecuted because of righteousness						

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