Introduction

1. Be Aware (Matthew 5:1-12)

How do Jesus' words in the Beatitudes contrast with modern conceptions of blessing? Why is it better to be blessed in the way Jesus said, even if it's not easier?

Application: Has your understanding of blessing been wrong? Why or why not? How does the biblical view of blessing change the way you think about your circumstances?

2. Be Conformed (Matthew 5:1-12)

What in the Beatitudes gives evidence that Jesus was speaking specifically of His followers and not of all people in general?

Why is it important to make the distinction between Christians doing good works to earn their salvation compared with living in accordance with their true identity in Christ?

What is sanctification? How is sanctification certain for all who trust in Jesus?
Application: In what specific areas is the Lord sanctifying you? Where is He currently convicting you of need for change?

3. Be Encouraged (Matthew 5:1-12)

What promises did Jesus make to Christians in the Beatitudes?

What was Jesus’ purpose for expressing these great promises to Christians?

Application: In what areas of your life do you need encouragement? If you are a Christian, how does the assurance of eternal life in heaven with your good Father help you? If you are not a Christian, how are you drawn to the hope of these promises?

Conclusion

How does your understanding of blessing need to change based on today’s study?

In what ways is the Spirit of God conforming you to the image of Christ?

Do promises of heaven encourage you? Why or why not? How can you let those precious promises of God have more influence over the way you see the world?

Daily Readings

- Monday - 1 Peter 1:14-16
- Tuesday - 2 Corinthians 7:1
- Wednesday - Hebrews 12:14
- Thursday - 1 John 3:6-10
- Friday - 1 Thessalonians 4:7
- Saturday - Romans 12:1