

THEME FOR THE MONTH: WORSHIP AS A LIFESTYLE

TOPIC: JESUS' TEACHING: BEATITUDES I

BIBLE TEXT: MATTHEW 5:1-6

MEMORY VERSE: ONE DAY HE SAW THE CROWDS GATHERING, JESUS WENT UP ON THE MOUNTAIN SIDE AND SAT DOWN. HIS DISCIPLES GATHERED AROUND HIM, AND HE BEGAN TO TEACH THEM. (MATTHEW 5:1-2)

TEACHING OBJECTIVES: BY THE END OF THE LESSON THE CHILD WILL BE ABLE TO

1. EXPLAIN THE WORD "BEATITUDE."
2. MENTION THE FIRST 4 BEATITUDES AND THEIR CORRESPONDING BLESSINGS.

CENTRAL TRUTH: THE CHRISTIAN'S ATTITUDE REFLECTS CHRIST ALWAYS

HYMN(S): MHB

INTRODUCTION: Jesus Christ was a teacher par excellence, right from the beginning of His earthly ministry. He taught his disciples about what one must do to be blessed. The Beatitudes are blessings taught by Jesus Christ on the mount. The Beatitudes can be understood in at least four ways: (1) They are a code of ethics for the disciples and a standard of conduct for all believers (2) They contrast Kingdom value with worldly values (3) They contrast the superficial "faith" of the Pharisees with the real faith that Christ demands. (4) They show how the Old Testaments expectations will be fulfilled in the new Kingdom. They describe what we should be as Christ's followers, so that we can enjoy the blessings of God. It is also called BE-ATTITUDES.

EXPOSITION: Huge crowds were following Jesus. He was the subject of the town, and everyone wanted to see Him. When Jesus saw the crowd, He found a suitable place and began to teach them. Each beatitude tells how to be blessed by God.

1. *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
2. *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*
3. *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*
4. *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

These blessings mean more than being happy. It implies the fortunate state of those who are in God's Kingdom. The beatitudes Jesus taught the crowd was for them to understand the Kingdom values and to encourage them that when they practiced it, they would be blessed by God. This blessing makes those who are poor in spirit possess the Kingdom of God, those who mourns for the sins and unbelief of people experience the comfort of the Lord, makes the meek in the Lord possess the earth, and satisfaction for the one who hungers and thirsts after righteousness. Those who follow Jesus' teaching no matter the cost, are the people who can be called His people. They shall have joy; they shall find hope they shall have peace.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. According to the passage, what does the Beatitudes teach?
2. Mention four (4) ways by which the Beatitudes can be understood.
3. Outline any five (5) moral values in the Sermon on the Mount.
4. Mention the first 4 Beatitudes and their corresponding blessings.
5. What does the Sermon on the Mount teach the followers of Christ?

SAVED CHILD: One of the things you can do as a Christian child is to pay attention to the teaching of Jesus Christ. Jesus teaches us the right things we should do and the evil things we should avoid. When we trust and obey the word of God, there are blessings waiting for us.

UNSAVED CHILD: Disobeying God displeases Him. Any act of disobedience is a sin. God wants you to taste His blessings. Come to Him now.