

“Who is Well-Off?” Matthew 5:1-20

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*Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:
Matthew 5:1-2 (English Standard Version)*

Big Idea: No human condition is beyond God’s care and provision and presence.

WHEN YOU ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, YOU ARE “WELL-OFF”.

“Blessed” = *makarios* = “Congratulations!” or, “You are really well-off!”

WE ARE WELL-OFF BECAUSE WE EXPERIENCE GOD’S PRESENCE NOW AND HIS FULLY REVEALED PRESENCE IN THE FUTURE.

- *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:3 (ESV)*
 - “poor in spirit” = spiritual poverty or people who think they have no standing with God
 - Well-off because the Kingdom of Heaven is open and available to all

- *“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Matthew 5:4 (ESV)*
 - “those who mourn” = people whose life situation is wretched
 - Well-off because they have God’s comforting presence now and His full comforting presence in the future

- *“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Matthew 5:5 (ESV)*
 - “meekness” = gentleness
 - Well-off because they have God’s resources now and His promise of a reversal of fortunes on a renewed planet earth

- *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Matthew 5:6 (ESV)*
 - “hunger and thirst for righteousness” = deep desire to live out the righteousness of God
 - Well-off because God’s presence enables them now to live righteously in a way that they could not live on their own and because He guarantees complete righteousness and justice at Christ’s return

- *“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Matthew 5:7 (ESV)*
 - “merciful” = generous attitude that is not quick to take offense or gloat over another’s shortcomings
 - Well-off because they receive what they give: mercy!

- *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Matthew 5:8 (ESV)*
 - “pure in heart” = a heart in which the usual motivation of the heart is godly
 - Well-off because God reveals Himself now and when the Kingdom comes, will give a full revelation of His glory

- *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Matthew 5:9 (ESV)*
 - “peacemakers” = seek peace and pursue it
 - Well-off because when you function as a peacemaker you are imitating God, living as His child

- *“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:10 (ESV)*
 - “persecuted for righteousness sake” = suffering because of standing for Kingdom values
 - Well-off because they have accepted Jesus’ invitation to be redeemed and have entered God’s Kingdom and are now walking in the kingdom

“The promises attached . . . to the so-called ‘Beatitudes’ must not be regarded as the reward of the spiritual states with which they are respectively connected, [or] as their result. It is not because a man is poor in spirit that his is the Kingdom of Heaven, in the sense that the one state will grow into the other, or be its result; still less is the one the reward of the other. The connecting link is in each case Christ Himself: because He . . . “has opened the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.” (From Alfred Edersheim’s The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah.)

APPLICATION TIP: Write a beatitude.

“Blessed are _____ . (Describe someone in a condition that, from a human point of view, is not blessed.)

“For they . . .” _____ . (For they too are invited into a vibrant, interactive relationship with Jesus in the Kingdom.)