

Matt 5: 3-12 - Beatitudes

- 1) Icebreaker
- 2) "Blessed"
 - a) *Q: Think back to a time when you felt "blessed," how would you describe it?*
 - b) Amplified definition (Matt 5:3)
 - i) Happy
 - ii) To be envied
 - iii) Spiritually prosperous
- 3) Matt 5: 3-12 (Amp)
 - a) Someone read
 - b) Hand out paper & have people list the qualities
 - c) Have each individual mark if a quality (see below) is: a strengths, a weaknesses, deteriorating, or actively improving

Quality	Reward
Poor in spirit	Kingdom of Heaven
Mourn	Comforted
Meek (mild, patient, long suffering)	Inherit the earth
Hunger & thirst for righteousness	Completely satisfied
Merciful	Obtain mercy
Pure in heart	See God
Makers & maintainers of peace	Called sons of God
Persecuted for righteousness sake	Kingdome of Heaven
Insulted, persecuted, lied about for Christ	Reward is great (strong & intense)

- d) *Q: What is one of your strengths? Actively improving?*
 - e) *Q: Was there one that threw up a flag for you? Why?*
 - f) Review rewards
- 4) Improving – What can I do today?

Matt 5: 3-12 MSG

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.