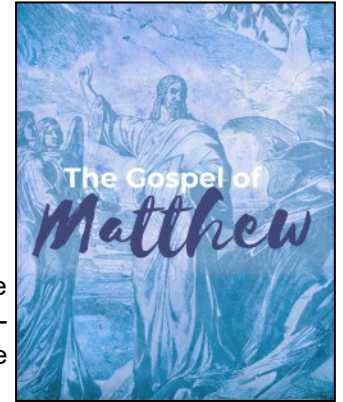


Pastor Jake Magee

June 21, 2026



**Strange Blessings**  
**Matthew 5:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. <sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

1. Strange Blessing #1: Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_ & they \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Strange Blessing #2: Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_ & they \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Strange Blessing #3: Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_ & they \_\_\_\_\_.

**Strange Blessings**  
**Matthew 5:1–5**  
**Discussion Questions**

**Getting Started**

The Sermon on the Mount is one of the most famous talks ever given. It is the original “TED Talk”—a message that can be read aloud in about fifteen minutes, yet its impact has been felt around the world for nearly two thousand years.

1. Complete the following phrases from the sermon:

“Don’t cast your \_\_\_\_\_.”

“Turn the other \_\_\_\_\_.”

“Judge not, \_\_\_\_\_.”

“Go the extra \_\_\_\_\_.”

2. What are some other famous speeches or talks from history? What made them so memorable?

**Digging Deeper (Read Matthew 4:23–5:12)**

There are a few valid ways to understand the Beatitudes.\* They can be seen both as a description of how a person comes to faith in Jesus and as a description of what a follower of Jesus looks like. This week we will focus on the first perspective. Next week we will explore the second.

3. Jesus says, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (5:3). Physical poverty helps us understand spiritual poverty. In what ways are the two alike?
4. Everyone is spiritually bankrupt before God, yet not everyone inherits the kingdom of heaven. What, then, does Jesus mean by being “poor in spirit”?

5. Jesus continues, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” (5:4).
  - If being poor in spirit means seeing our spiritual need, what does mourning suggest about the next step?
  - Read Luke 18:9–14. How does the tax collector illustrate the first two Beatitudes?
  - If appropriate, share a time when you became deeply aware of your need for God's grace.
  
6. Mourning over sin includes grieving not only our own sin, but also the brokenness and suffering sin causes in the world. What are some things happening in our community, nation, or world right now that should move Christians to mourn and pray?
  
7. The third Beatitude says, “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”
  - According to the passage Jesus cites (Psalm 37), what is meant—and not meant—by meekness (vv. 11, 22, 29, 34)?
  - Why should we expect meekness to grow in a person who has experienced the first two Beatitudes?
  
8. How does each Beatitude lead naturally to the next?
  
9. As much as the Beatitudes describe those who belong to God's kingdom, they also point us to Jesus Himself. Go back through the Beatitudes and discuss how each one reflects who Jesus is and what He has done for us.

### **Making It Real**

10. Of the first three Beatitudes, which one stands out to you most right now? Why? Spend some time praying for one another, asking God to deepen that quality in your life.

When the Bible was translated into Latin (the Latin Vulgate), the word we translate as “blessed” was rendered *beati*. Because each of these statements begins with *beati* (“blessed”), Christians eventually came to refer to them collectively as the *Beatitudes*. If we translated the name directly into English, we might call them the “Bless-si-tudes” or simply the “Blessings.”

### **Resources**

[www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)

[www.biblehub.com](http://www.biblehub.com)

[www.preceptaustin.org](http://www.preceptaustin.org)