

Shadows of Christ & His Bride

Lesson #39

Ruth & The Blessed Life

Nov. 12, 2025

The context of the Beatitudes is Jesus' inaugural address, the Sermon on the Mount, which is His manifesto for the new community of God's kingdom.

Setting: A crowd that included many poor and oppressed people in Roman-occupied territory.

Jesus is not giving rules but describing the character of life in His kingdom.

A Manifesto for His Kingdom: They describe the character and values of people in God's kingdom—a kingdom built on service, generosity, forgiveness, and justice rather than power and might. These virtues are not a checklist of good deeds but a description of a different way of living that is empowered by God.

A Call to Transformation: The Beatitudes are a description of a transformed life that naturally flows from an inner change. They provide a vision of what life in His kingdom looks like. The Beatitudes are a call to transformation, outlining what life looks like within His Kingdom, characterized by humility, mercy, purity, and peacemaking.

Adrian Rogers: Jesus began His Sermon on the Mount with a well-known list of beatitudes.

Beatitude: The satisfaction, joy, happiness, and blessing we feel when we know God has completely fulfilled a spiritual need. It is the attitude that should be reflected in the understanding of God's perfect provision. It means having everything that you need spiritually. It is the real blessedness that comes only to those who seek the blessing of God.

➤ His beatitudes are the Keys to His Kingdom.

Ruth 2:2 And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain following one in whose eyes I may find Favor, Grace."

Ruth exemplifies key aspects of the Beatitudes, especially the poor in spirit, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, and the pure in heart through her humility, hard work, and steadfast loyalty to God and Naomi. The Beatitudes describe internal attitudes, while Ruth's story illustrates these principles through actions like her selflessness. Her story is a powerful illustration of the virtues Jesus taught, showing how obedience, loyalty, and kindness, even in difficult circumstances, can lead to God's grace and provision. Her journey culminates in becoming the Bride of Boaz, a type of Jesus Christ.

Seeking Blessedness Rather Than Happiness

The Beatitudes reframe "Blessedness" [from the Latin "beatus," meaning happy] to be found not in worldly success, but in a State Of Spiritual Dependence On God.

Matt. 5:3-12 uses the term "Blessed are" nine times.

- Nine: to establish the man or woman who is complete in the fullness of God's grace
- The Fruit of the Spirit lists 9 fruits which are the result of the Holy Spirit's presence in a person's life, not an achievement of willpower.

Matt. 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [Beatitude #1]

Blessed = #3107 Makarios describes a believer in *enviable* ["fortunate"] position

from receiving *God's provisions* [favor]

➤ Which extend ["make long, large"] His grace [benefits]. [Biblehub.org]

➤ Identifies the state of being under the approving favor of God,

a Joy that springs from Relationship with Him rather than from circumstances.

In the Septuagint, makarios, is anchored in Covenant Faithfulness:

➤ the one who trusts, fears, or waits for the LORD is "blessed."

Makarios announces Grace. Still, Scripture links blessedness with concrete obedience:

hearing, doing, giving, enduring, and watching. The term motivates discipleship not by fear of loss but by Promise of Divine Approval and Joy. Makarios is the New Testament portrait of happiness rooted in the Character, Promises, and Presence of God.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus describes character qualities which define who you are.

Your reputation is what others think about you. Character is what God knows about you.

When you die, you'll leave behind all that you have and you'll take with you all that You Are.

Key: The order of the beatitudes shows you how to make progress in the Christian life.

The first 3 illustrate the 3 roots of a blessed and godly life which deal with our need.

Matt. 5:3 Poor in Spirit ➤ Matt. 5:4 We mourn because our sins are many. ➤

Matt. 5:5 We become meek, rather than self-willed and defiant.

Matt. 5:3 Blessed are the Poor In Spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Poor 4434 Ptóchos = to crouch; to cringe; to shrink back; a beggar, a pauper,

➤ A person who is totally and devastatingly impoverished.

It is a state of recognizing one's own spiritual poverty and realizing they have no power or righteousness of their own to earn favor with God.

Ruth & Naomi arrive in Bethlehem.

➤ They have no home, no money & no way to provide for themselves.

Ruth 2:2 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field and

glean among the ears of grain following one in whose eyes I may find favor, grace."

Poor in Spirit: Ruth was humble and dependent on God, recognizing her need for His provision.

After losing her husband, she came to a new land with nothing and relied on God and the kindness of others, rather than her own strength or status.

In the spiritual realm, we are absolutely, totally bankrupt—beggars before God.

Adrian Rogers: For most people, their greatest need is to see their need.

This discovery comes when we see just who God is, and then we understand who we are.

Simon Peter was a naturally aggressive man who always gave his opinion. One day,

he had a glimpse of the majesty and glory of Jesus Christ. He finally saw his bankruptcy.

Luke 5:8-9, 11b When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; they forsook all and followed Him.

Paul had difficulty seeing himself as bankrupt. Paul had the right birth.

- He was a Hebrew of the Hebrews. He was a Pharisee. He was also a Roman citizen.
- He had the best education money could buy.
- He kept the Jewish laws with an exactitude that was amazing.
- One day, he caught a glimpse of Jesus Christ.
- The things he had counted as gain, he now counted as loss. [Phil. 3:8]

Beatitudes are listed in a specific sequence. This Beatitude, Poor in Spirit,

is listed first because it's the foundation for all the other blessings that follow.

Without this key, all the other keys to the Kingdom won't make any difference at all.

Through thirty-four New Testament occurrences, Scripture presents poverty not merely as an economic category but as a window into His Kingdom's upside-down values—

- Dependence on God becomes wealth and self-reliance is exposed as poverty.

The Poor In Spirit Are Blessed: The kingdom values those who are "poor in spirit" and find their riches in their dependence on God, not in wealth.

Col. 2:3 In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

The Humble Are Exalted: The last shall be first. Those who are humble and serve others will be lifted up, while those who exalt themselves will be humbled.

The Meek Are Blessed: The meek and those who mourn are considered blessed, which contrasts with the world's view of the strong and powerful.

Servants Are Leaders: True leadership is serving others, not by having authority over them.

Love Extends To Enemies: The kingdom is characterized by a radical, self-sacrificing love that includes loving one's enemies and doing good to those who hate you.

The Weak Are Strong: God's power is often made perfect in weakness.

He chooses the weak and foolish to shame the wise and strong.

Key 1: "Poor in Spirit" means to be humble, acknowledge your spiritual emptiness and sin, and rely on God's grace rather than your own righteousness. It involves a realization of your spiritual bankruptcy, a dependence on God, and a detachment from self-sufficiency.

I am blessed because my joy is rooted in the Character, Promises, and Presence of God.

Matt. 5:4 Blessed are those who Mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Jesus began: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

When we understand we are spiritually bankrupt in the sight of a righteous and holy God, it should bring brokenness into our hearts.

Mourners of Brokenness: Greek word for "mourn" is a strong word— deepest word for sorrow.

Mourn comes from the deepest, most poignant word for sorrow. It means to be consumed with grief. Jesus is talking about those who primarily mourn over sin: theirs and the sin of humanity.

- Brokenness is coming to the end of our self-life.

Have you been broken over your sin? Repentance looks beyond the sin to Calvary.

- A person who has repented is a person who hates his sin because he loves his Savior.
- You will see that sin is an affront to a righteous, holy God.

Brokenness leads to an unexpected good.

"The blessing of brokenness" is a concept that suggests that times of hardship, failure, and emotional pain can lead to spiritual growth, a deeper faith, and a more purposeful life.

When individuals are broken, they are more open to God's work in their lives, leading to profound spiritual transformation, renewal of mind and spirit, and a stronger, more authentic relationship with God. The process involves yielding to brokenness, allowing God to reshape and remold the individual, ultimately leading to a new kind of wholeness...

- that is impossible to achieve without the preceding brokenness.

Jesus said, "Blessed are they that mourn." He does not leave you in your guilt and grief.

Key: Mourning your sin is the only way to be comforted.

Focus on Jesus: Mourning sin is not the end, but a step in the process.

Focus on Jesus's grace, cleansing, and forgiveness as the ultimate source of comfort.

The word comfort: filled with strength: com > with fort > strength.

- Think of the word "fortify." God says, "I will put my strength in you."

John 14:16-17 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

The first 3 illustrate the 3 roots of a blessed and godly life which deal with our need.

Matt. 5:3 Poor in Spirit ➤ Matt. 5:4 We mourn because our sins are many. ➤

Matt. 5:5 We become meek, rather than self-willed and defiant.

Matt. 5:5 Blessed are the meek, for they shall Inherit The Earth.

Consider: This is a shocking statement to His audience. All three Beatitudes are shocking.

Jesus called for things absolutely foreign to their thinking.

- They knew how to be spiritually proud. Beware of spiritual pride!

Samuel Richardson: Spiritual pride is the most dangerous and the most arrogant of all sorts of pride.

- They knew how to be self-sufficient.

They thought they could survive on their own strength, their own wisdom, their own might and their own resources.

Biblical meekness does not come naturally to carnal man.

Because of our sin nature we are inherently self-centered seeking status and prestige.

1. Submit to the Son of God: Matthew 11:28-30

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle [meek] and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

Submission to God: Meekness involves a willing submission to God's will and authority, and a disregard for one's own rights in favor of His.

It is a byproduct of self-emptying. Meekness tends to describe an attitude of heart and mind

*True meekness comes after we see ourselves as poor in spirit, absolutely bankrupt.

- You mourn over your sin and are brokenhearted over it.
- You must be broken to be meek.

*To be meek means to be yielded, to have a compliant spirit.

- It involves putting aside personal desires and ambitions to align with God's will.
- It is strength under divine control, like a trained horse

From Initiative to Submission:

- Ruth begins by taking the initiative to glean in the fields to provide for herself and Naomi. After meeting Boaz, her change in attitude is evident as she submits to his instructions, such as not gleaning in any other field.
- Her initial initiative in gleaning changes to a submissive and reverent attitude as she follows his instructions, showing a marked shift from seeking to earn her own way to trusting in his guidance and protection.
- Her initial decision to glean was an act of faith, but her obedience to Boaz shows a deeper trust that God's provision comes through a combination of her faith and her willingness to submit to those He has placed in authority.
- Her character develops through diligent work and a respectful, obedient spirit, which leads to her being provided for and eventually to a new life and lineage.

Characteristics of Biblical Meekness

Strength Under Control: It is power that is intentionally and purposefully restrained, like a trained horse possessing power but directed by a rider.

Humility & Lowliness: A meek person has a lowly, modest mindset, preferring to serve and consider others rather than themselves.

Patient & Calm: It is a "calm temper of mind, not easily provoked" that chooses gentleness over aggression.

Trust & Submission: Meekness involves a reverential fear of God, leading to a willingness to wait on His timing and plans rather than forcing outcomes.

Non-retaliation: Meek people are not defensive and refrain from seeking revenge, instead giving their cause to God.

Openness To Correction: It is a characteristic of wisdom that makes one "quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger" and open to the "implanted Word."

2. Be Responsive To The Word Of God.

James 1:21 So get rid of all uncleanness and all that remains of wickedness,
and with a humble spirit receive the Word [of God] which is implanted [engrafted]
[actually rooted in your heart], which is able to Save Your Souls.

"Implanted or Engrafted Word" refers to the Word of God that is deeply rooted
in a believer's heart, capable of transforming their soul.

It is God's Word that is Received With Humility, Internalized, and then it acts as a
Living Power that produces Spiritual Growth and Salvation Of Our Soul.

- This emphasizes that one must have a receptive attitude and
a heart free from sin to truly benefit from it.

Receive: 2 Greek words for receive.

1. Lambano: a self-prompted taking; grasping, or reaching out, snatching.

Some get a Bible, a Bible dictionary, and a concordance and some commentaries. They get a
yellow legal pad, a pen, sit down at their desk and say, "I am going to learn the Bible."

Truth: You might learn some facts about the Bible, but you're not going to learn God's Word,
until you receive it with meekness; ready to be taught. You might know the names of all the
kings of Israel. You might know Bible chronology, you might know it all, but you have not
Received the Word. You have gone into the Word of God to try to snatch out some truth.

Maybe for your pride, maybe you'll know more than somebody else, maybe you'll show yourself as
some teacher. You will not know the Word of God because your spirit has never been broken.

2. Receive = dechomai. It means to welcome with humility.

Have you ever set down to study the Bible absolutely prepared to do everything it says?

Ps. 119:12 Blessed are You, LORD; Teach me Your statutes.

Ps. 119:18 Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions.

Ps. 119:36-37 Incline my heart to Your testimonies and not to *dishonest gain and envy*.

Turn my eyes away from looking at what is worthless and revive me in Your ways.

Ruth 2:8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not?"

Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but STAY close by my young women.

In Ruth 1:14, Stay, dabaq [#1692], is translated cleave. Ruth clung to her.

- Means to stick to, adhere to, cling to, join with, stay in close proximity to
- Abide Fast, cleave fast together, follow close hard after
- Dabaq describes something that sticks or clings to something else.

The Septuagint translates dabaq with the Greek verb kollao = glue which literally means
to join closely or glue together. It is in the arist imperative which indicates a command that is
to be carried out even with a sense of urgency.

This command was given by Boaz with her best interest at heart. [He is her kinsman-redeemer.]
Remember that these were the dangerous days of the judges.

It is interesting that Ruth is commanded to stay [abide] 4 times in Ruth 2.

- Ruth 2:8 Stay right here with us when you gather grain; don't go to any other fields.
- Ruth 2:8 Stay right behind the young women working in my field.
- Ruth 2:21 Stay with his harvesters until the entire harvest is completed.
- Ruth 2:22 Stay with his young women right through the whole harvest. [Naomi]
- Ruth 2:23 So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz [obedience]

From Earning To Being Provided For: Initially, Ruth focuses on working hard to earn her food. When Boaz extends his kindness, her focus shifts from manual labor to graciously accepting his provision, including lunch and instructions for her to follow.

Self-reliance to God-dependence: Her mindset shifted from self-reliance to dependence on God, trusting that He would provide. This faith was a cornerstone of her transformation.

Shift in Reverence: Ruth moves from a posture of a foreigner seeking sustenance to one of a submissive follower. Her respect for Boaz is mirrored by her reverence for the law, which she trusted would lead to a blessing.

Be Filled With The Spirit of God

Eph. 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

- Continuously Filled

Col. 3:12 So, as God's own chosen people, who are holy [set apart, sanctified for His purpose] and well-beloved [by God Himself], put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience [which has the power to endure whatever injustice or unpleasantness comes, with good temper] [AMP]

When you say, "Lord Jesus, I put Your yoke upon me." When you say to the Word of God, "I receive this Word with meekness." When you say to the Spirit of God, "Work in me, work in me." The fruit of the Spirit wasn't intended to be a list of goals for us to produce;

It is the Holy Spirit through us that produces the fruit.

Gal. 5:22-23 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness and self-control.

- Meekness is not self-manufactured but Spirit-produced.

John MacArthur: "Meekness is a fruit of the spirit, which is found on the soil of spiritual poverty, contrition, and mourning. It is a noble flower which grows out of the ashes of self-love, on the grave of pride. On the one hand, the man sees his own utter ruin, his unworthiness and misery. On the other, he contemplates the kindness and the goodness of God and Christ Jesus. The internal characteristic is a disposition of heart, which through the keen perception of its own misery and the abounding mercy of God, has become so pliant, gentle, mild, flexible, and tractable, that no traces of its original ruggedness, of its wild and untamed nature even remain." When I am meek, I possess power under control.

Matt. 5:4 Blessed are the meek, for they shall Inherit The Earth.

Matt. 6:9-10 Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven.

Rev. 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying,

"The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ;
and He will reign forever and ever."

Psalms 22:26 "The meek shall eat and be satisfied.

They shall praise the Lord that seek Him. Your heart shall live forever."

Ps. 25:9b The meek will He teach His way.

Ps. 37:11 But the meek shall inherit the earth,

And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Ps. 37:29 The righteous shall inherit the land, And dwell in it forever.

Ps. 37:34 Wait on the Lord, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land

When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.

Psalms 147:6 The Lord lifts up the meek.

A Divine promise: Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the Earth.

God's Original Purpose: God gave the earth to man. [Ps. 115:16]

God gave man dominion over the earth, the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, and the animals. God gave man dominion over the whole earth. [Gen. 1:26]

A Future Reward with the full inheritance realized after Christ's Second Coming

when He will establish His Millennial Reign on a refreshed and renewed earth.

Restoration of Dominion: This future rulership is seen as the Restoration of the Dominion

God originally gave Adam & Eve in Genesis.

It is a promise of a greater inheritance than earthly possessions or power.

Ruling with Christ in His kingdom refers to believers sharing in His authority, in a future, literal reign with Him on Earth. Those who overcome will be granted positions of rulership, serving as priests and rulers over nations under Christ.

Priests and Rulers: The faithful will be made both priests and kings,
ruling under Christ's authority.

Rev. 5:10 You have made them to be a kingdom [of royal subjects] and priests to our God;
and they will reign on the earth."

Authority: Matt. 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant:
thou hast been faithful over a few things,
I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Truth: Meekness is not merely a temporary strategy for hostile times;

it is the very posture that fits believers to reign with Christ in the age to come.

Entering vs. inheriting: Entering heaven, which is granted through salvation, justification. Inheriting the kingdom, signifies a greater degree of reward or a specific role within it.

Rev. 21:7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

Sequence: Blessed are the poor in spirit: My condition: I am spiritually bankrupt.
Blessed are they that mourn: Contrition: I see what I am, weep over it & repent.
Blessed are the meek: Submit and yield to the will of God. Have a new master.

I Cor. 15:58 *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

Eph. 3:16-19 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust in Him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. ¹⁸And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Submit To the Word of God. Receive the Word of God.
Be Continuously Filled with the Spirit of God.

God uses the root of sensing your need to produce the shoot of longing for righteousness. When the roots of the first three beatitudes are nourished, a desire for righteousness will grow.