

# Accepting the Blessings of a New Year

Deuteronomy 33:24-25

# Accepting the Blessings of a New Year

- Deut. 33:24-25 - “And of Asher he said: ‘Asher is most blessed of sons; Let him be favored by his brothers, And let him dip his foot in oil. Your shoes shall be iron and bronze; As your days, so shall your strength be.’”
- Gen. 49:20 - “Bread from Asher shall be rich, And he shall yield royal dainties.”

# Accepting the Blessings of a New Year

- And yet historically, Asher fared little better than his brothers, and his tribe was no better off than any other tribe. What did the blessing mean?
  - His shoes, a metaphor for his journey through life, would be tough enough to handle whatever path he took.
  - Therefore, God said whatever a day brought him, he would have what he needed to handle it.

# Accepting the Blessings of a New Year

- It is about deciding what is truly important and being content with that alone.
  - All other circumstances are changeable and do not add to or take from that contentment.
- Matt. 5:3-12
  - Beatitudes: these things are important to contentment.
  - All other things do not have the power to add to or take away from peace of mind and happiness.

# The Blessings

- The word “beatitude” means “supreme blessedness or happiness.”
- Jesus was answering two questions people would have been asking:
  - Who will be the citizens of the kingdom of heaven?
  - What benefits do they receive?

# The Blessings

- Citizens of the kingdom of heaven will be poor in spirit, mourning for their sins, meek, hungering for righteousness, merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, and willing to suffer persecution. It does not appear to be a pleasant condition; *however...*
  - What blessings do they receive as citizens of the kingdom?
  - Are the blessings worth the effort to endure the hardships?

# The Blessings

- Blessed is the first word of the sermon.
  - The first word of the Psalms 1:1
  - The beginning words of Revelation 1:3
  - Nine times in the opening of the Sermon on the Mount.
- This word involves great joy and gladness; literally means, “how very happy!”
  - Verb form is in Matt. 5:12 - “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad.”
  - And in Luke 6:23 - “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy!”

# We Have The Blessings That Count

- Matt. 5:3 - “Theirs *is* the kingdom of heaven” - the blessings are both present and future.
  - Matt. 25:34 - “Then the King will say to those on His right hand, Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”



# We Have The Blessings That Count

- 2Peter 1:10-11 - “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”
- Heb. 12:22-24 - “You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.”

# We Have The Blessings That Count

- Matt. 5:4 - “They shall be comforted.”
- We are comforted now.
  - 2Cor. 1:3-4 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”
- We shall be comforted in the future.
  - Rev. 21:4 - “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

# We Have The Blessings That Count

- Matt. 5:5 - “They shall inherit the earth.”
- In one sense, we inherit it now, as a result of putting the kingdom of God first.
  - Matt. 6:33 - “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”
  - Mark 10:28-30 - “Then Peter began to say to Him, ‘See, we have left all and followed You.’ 29 So Jesus answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, 30 who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time--houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions--and in the age to come, eternal life.’”

# We Have The Blessings That Count

- Matt. 5:5 - “They shall inherit the earth.”
- In a fulfilled sense in the life that is to come.
  - 2Peter 3:13 - “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

# We Have The Blessings That Count

- Matt. 5:6 - “They shall be filled.”
- With the righteousness we need, found only in Christ.
  - Phil. 3:8-9 - “Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.”
- Received now through the precious blood of Christ.
  - Rom. 5:9 - “Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”

# We Have The Blessings That Count

- Matt. 5:6 - “They shall be filled.”
- Received in fullness in heaven.
  - Rev. 19:5-9 - “Then a voice came from the throne, saying, ‘Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!’ 6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 ‘Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.’ 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, ‘Write: “Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!”’ And he said to me, ‘These are the true sayings of God.’”



# We Have The Blessings That Count

- Matt. 5:7 - “They shall obtain mercy.”
- Those in the kingdom enjoy the forgiveness of sins now.
  - Rev. 1:5-6 - “From Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”
- We shall also be shown mercy in the future by escaping the righteous wrath of God in the Day of Judgment.
  - 1Thes. 1:10 - “...To wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

# We Have The Blessings That Count

- Matt. 5:8 - “They shall see God.”
- Presently, we can see God through Jesus Christ.
  - John 14:6-7 - “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. 7 If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.’”



# We Have The Blessings That Count

- Matt. 5:8 - “They shall see God.”
- But in the future, we shall see him face to face.
  - Rev. 21:3 - “I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.”
  - Rev. 22:3-4 - “There shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.”

# We Have The Blessings That Count

- Matt. 5:9 - “They shall be called sons of God.”
- Even now we are called the sons of God.
  - 1John 3:1-2 - “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

# We Have The Blessings That Count

- Matt. 5:9 - “They shall be called sons of God.”
- How much more so in the future in a fulfilled sense.
  - Rev. 21:7 - “He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.”
  - Similar to Matt. 17:5 - “This is my beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased.”

# We Have The Blessings That Count

- Matt. 5:10-12 - “Great is your reward in heaven.”
- We have it now.
  - 1Peter 1:3-5 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”
- We will have it then, too.
  - 1Peter 5:4 - “When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”

## Perhaps We Can Better Understand Why Those In The Kingdom Of Heaven Are Truly Called Blessed, Even Though:

- We are poor in spirit, we have the kingdom of heaven.
- We find ourselves mourning for sin and suffering, we are comforted by God Himself.
- We are meek in our relationships with God and man, we shall inherit the earth.
- We are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, we are being filled by what God has supplied.
- We must be merciful to others, we have and will obtain mercy that has an eternal effect.
- We must be pure in heart, we can and will see God.
- We must labor to bring peace, we are identified as the sons of God.
- We may be persecuted for righteousness' sake, we have the kingdom of heaven.

# We Have What Really Counts!

- The blessings of the kingdom outweigh anything this world has to offer, or any pain it might inflict.
  - There are the true God given blessings now in this life.
  - And there will be greater, fulfilled blessings in the life that is to come.
- However, those blessings are only enjoyed by those in the kingdom who appreciate that the blessings in Christ are the ones that really count.
- Those outside of the kingdom and those with one foot in the kingdom and one foot in the world cannot have and enjoy these blessings.