**THE BEATITUDES**

We are members of the Oak Ridge church of Christ. We call ourselves Christians ([**Acts 11:26**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Acts%2011:26)) and we hold to the Bible as our one and only Truth. Church of Christ is a biblical description of Christians who work together for the cause of Christ ([**Ro. 16:16**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Romans%2016:16)). We are independent assemblies with no organization beyond our own number as described in [**Phil. 1:1**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Philippians%201:1). There are Christians across the world working with local congregations of God’s people such as described in [**Rev. 2**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Revelation%202)**-3**. Christians are members of Christ’s body, which is also known as His Church ([**Acts 2:47**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Acts%202:47)**,**[**Eph. 5:23**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Ephesians%205:23)). Our mission is to stand for God’s truth (the gospel) and teach it to all people ([**Matt. 28:18-20**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Matthew%2028:18-20)**,**[**Romans 1:16**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Romans%201:16)**,**[**1 Tim. 3:15**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=1%20Timothy%203:15)). We are accountable to our one and only Head Jesus Christ ([**Eph. 1:22-23**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Ephesians%201:22-23)**,**[**Col. 1:18**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Colossians%201:18)).

Jesus begins His sermon on the mount with the beatitudes. They are short, simple, and yet very powerful. We want you to open your Bibles with us as we study the beatitudes tonight!

***\*Read Matthew 5:1-12***

**Matthew 5:3**

Blessed are the poor in spirit: This means to have a humble opinion of ourselves; to be sensible that we are sinners, and have no righteousness of our own; to be willing to be saved only by the rich grace and mercy of God. This attitude is seen in the tax collector in [**Luke 18:13**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Luke%2018:13). Such people God will accept. The opposite of "poor in spirit" would be "proud of heart". Examples are the Pharisee ([**Luke 18:11-12**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Luke%2018:11-12)) and the Laodiceans ([**Revelation 3:17-19**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Revelation%203:17-19)).

Theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven: These blessings are in the spiritual kingdom now on earth ([**Colossians 1:13-14**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Colossians%201:13-14)) and forever ([**2 Peter 1:11**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=2%20Peter%201:11)). Note that the first (**verse 3**) and the last beatitude (**verse 10**) include this expression indicating that the blessings in between (**verses 4-9**) would likewise apply to citizens of the Kingdom. Just as the Kingdom is both present and future, the blessings described are both present and future.

**Matthew 5:4**

Blessed are those who mourn: Mourn over one's own spiritual poverty or sinfulness. David is an example of one who mourned ([**Psalm 51:3-4**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Psalm%2051:3-4)). Notice the relationship between [**Matthew 5:3-4**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Matthew%205:3-4). Unless one is first "poor in spirit" they will not mourn over their sinfulness.

Shall be comforted: In reference to those who mourn over their sins, they are comforted now ([**2 Corinthians 1:3-5**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=2%20Corinthians%201:3-5)) and shall be comforted for eternity ([**Revelation 7:14-17**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Revelation%2022:1-4)).

**Matthew 5:5**

Blessed are the meek: These are gentle; easy to be entreated; would rather suffer injury than inflict it. An example is a work horse. It is strong enough to do what it wants, but it willingly and obediently submits to its master and the work at hand. Jesus is a biblical example of meekness. He was certainly not a weak or timid man ([**John 2:13-16**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=John%202:13-16)), but He willingly submitted to the Father's will (**John 8:29,** [**Luke 22:41-42**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Luke%2022:41-42)).

Shall inherit the earth: In one sense they inherit it now ([**Mark 10:29-30**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Mark%2010:29-30)) and in another sense there is a promise of a "new earth" for eternity ([**2 Peter 3:13**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=2%20Peter%203:13)).

**Matthew 5:6**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness: These are not searching half-heartedly for righteousness but like the Psalmist in [**Psalm 42:1-2**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Psalm%2042:1-2). These are diligently seeking God (**2 Timothy 2:15,**

**1 Peter 1:10, 3:14**). The righteousness of God is the only thing that really satisfies the soul ([**John 4:13-14**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=John%204:13-14)**, 7:37-38,** [**Revelation 22:17**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Revelation%2022:17)).

Shall be filled: The righteousness of Jesus is the only food that satisfies forever ([**John 6:57-58**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=John%206:48-58)**, Ephesians 5:18**).

**Matthew 5:7**

Blessed are the merciful: One who possesses a forgiving spirit toward those who sin against them. Notice Jesus ([**Luke 23:34**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Luke%2023:34)) and Stephen ([**Acts 7:60**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Acts%207:60)).

Shall obtain mercy: Those in the Kingdom enjoy the mercy of God ([**Ephesians 2:4-6**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Ephesians%202:4-6)), and they can have eternal life ([**Jude 20**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Jude%2020)**-21**).

**Matthew 5:8**

Blessed are the pure in heart: Those who have singleness of heart, honest and true, not self-seeking, and without hypocrisy. Such a quality is necessary to see God ([**Psalm 24:3-5**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Psalm%2024:3-6)**,**[**Ephesians 6:5-7**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Ephesians%206:5-7)**, 1 Tim. 1:5**).

Shall see God: Presently those who are citizens of the Kingdom can see God through their Lord Jesus Christ ([**John 14:6-7**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=John%2014:6-7)) and in the future we shall see Him face to face ([**Revelation 21:3**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Revelation%2021:3)**and 22:3-4**).

**Matthew 5:9**

Blessed are the Peacemakers: Those who devote their lives to making peace by practicing those things from above ([**James 3:17-18**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=James%203:17-18)). The pursuit of peace with all men involves effort ([**Romans 12:18-21**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Romans%2012:18-21)**, 14:19, 1 Peter 3:11**). Peacemakers help others to be at peace with God through the gospel ([**Romans 5:1-2**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Romans%205:1-2)).

Shall be called sons of God: How great to be a son of God forever ([**Romans 8:13-14**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Romans%208:13-14)**,** [**Revelation 21:7**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Revelation%2021:7)).

**Matthew 5:10-12**

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake: These have willingly endured persecution ([**Acts 5:40-41**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Acts%205:41)**,**[**Philippians 3:7-8**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Philippians%203:7-8)) by being reviled or reproached, spoken evil of, and slandered falsely ([**Matthew 5:11**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Matthew%205:11)). Such persecution will come to citizens of the Kingdom ([**2 Tim. 3:12**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=2%20Timothy%203:12)**, 1 Peter 4:12-16**).

Great is their reward: Those who endure and rejoice in suffering for Jesus will be rewarded (**1 Peter 1:6-9, James 1:12**).

**Citizens of the Kingdom shall be comforted, shall inherit the earth, shall be filled, shall obtain mercy, shall see God, shall be called sons of God, and shall be rewarded! *How about you? Are you a member of the Lord’s Kingdom tonight?* (**[**Matthew 28:18-20**](http://oakridgechurch.com/passage.asp?v=Matthew%2028:18-20)**)**.

We invite all in our audience to our Bible studies on Wednesday at 7pm and Sunday morning at 9am. We would love to study God’s together with you! Please check the scriptures we have covered tonight. We want to help you in any way we can. Contact us for Bible studies by telephone, e-mail, or simply come to one of our assemblies. Contact: We assemble at 225 North Purdue Ave. in Oak Ridge at 9am on Sundays and 7pm on Wednesdays; oakridgechurch.com; murray.wade@oakridgechurch.com; (865) 693-1416.

***\*We invite all to our Gospel Meeting from Friday, May 12 to Sunday, May 14.***

We plan to have a re-airing of this program on Monday, May 15, 2023. Our next live program is planned for June 5, 2023 when we plan to study “**God’s Free Gifts For You!**” We hope to see you next time on **"Speaking The Truth In Love".**