

Hey, so, uh, quick advice that God gave me here this week, um, take your phones and the TV – turn them off and spend time in the Word. That's my advice to you. How many of you did that this week? Okay, good, good. How many of you needed to do that this week but maybe you're stuck with the TV and the phone? Okay. Okay. Well, listen, I'm glad you're here and here's what I want to do this morning. Okay? I want to be in His Word, I want to meditate on His truth because that's where as believers—if you're new with us and you're not, uh, you can give your life to Jesus, you don't know the blessings yet of what that means, we're glad you're here—but for those who have given their life and that live in the blessing we're going to talk about, man, there's joy in just knowing who He is. Right? And that He is in control of all things. And not even just this past week and the weeks to follow, I'm sure, but this past year how many of you were like I just need more of Jesus? Yeah, me, too... me, too. So hey, turn in your Bibles to Matthew Chapter 5, I'm going to pray for us this morning; Matthew Chapter 5 and as you turn there I'm going to give this to the Lord.

Father,

We love You and we need You. And Lord, I pray right now that You would come into this place in a way that You've never come in before. I pray your Spirit would convict the hardest of hearts in this room. Father, I pray that You would forgive us for the slander we speak, for the lies we tell, for the unforgiving hearts that we show. And Father, I pray that as Christ followers come into this room from every background and every place, we come into this room unified under Christ Jesus, under the banner of the cross. And I pray that this Word, Lord, would come out and be true to us not only as we receive it, Lord, for the spoken word but we would live this out, Lord, as we claim our inheritance that's found in this manifest of the King.

In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

So that's what I'm calling this message—the manifest of the King—and the reason I'm calling that is in Matthew 5 there's a section called the beatitudes. And the beatitudes is Jesus the King talking about who is in His Kingdom, the characteristics of the people in His Kingdom, and He's going to lay out these characteristics for us this morning. And I want to just say something, here's my argument for those who have not yet given their life to Jesus. I have the easiest job in the world being a pastor because here's my job; my job is to tell people where ultimate joy and ultimate blessing is found. I believe that is true with every part of my being. I believe that ultimate joy and ultimate blessing is something that everyone in this world seeks, we just seek it in different things.

So some of you think ultimate joy is found in a great job, a great family, blessings found in great friends, and so you seek those things. But really, if we're honest, most of us in this room if you ever have sought those things find that they don't actually satisfy you. And so what I get to do as a follower of Jesus is to say no-no-no, in Jesus you will actually get what you're looking for. You will find joy that doesn't go away, it's not temporary. You'll find blessing that stays with you and you can live in.

For some of you who are like, "I don't know. I follow Jesus and I don't experience that joy and that blessing," I'm going to challenge you about maybe why you aren't experiencing that when you should claim your inheritance. That's your inheritance. You are blessed if you are a follower of Jesus. I want you to hear this: You are blessed. It doesn't matter what happens to the world, you are blessed. So Jesus in His Scripture is going to talk about the idea that this joy and this blessing is found in Him. We see in Scripture this illustration of the vine and that we are the branches and as we remain in Him we are going to live out these things in our lives and we're going to experience these joys in our lives.

**Jesus speaking:**

**"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."**

**- John 15:5 (ESV)**

Quick little testimony – I didn't believe this for most of my life. I thought joy and blessing was found in the things of this world so I chased those things. Most of us have a similar story. And I remember in 2002 I was in high school and a man named Rick Warren wrote a book called *The Purpose-Driven® Life* and it was the time in my life where my best friend died right in front of me. I saw death, I was questioning whether or not the meaningless of this world had anything to satisfy me and I recognized that, man, this world is fleeting. I gotta know about what happens after this world. And so it led me to actually read the Word, spend time in the truth, study what I said I believed.

And I remember opening up *The Purpose-Driven® Life* book, my brother gave it to me at the time, and the first words were: "It's not about you."<sup>1</sup> And I remember that just rocked me because though I heard the truth of the Gospel many times, my whole life was about how do I make this Jesus thing work for me? And then I realized okay, wait, wait, wait, that's why I don't get it yet, it's because it was about me, I was on the throne of my life and that's why I couldn't experience these blessings that God says comes in Him. It's because I was on the throne; He wasn't on the throne. And so all of a sudden I read these words after that: "The purpose of your life is far greater than your own personal fulfillment, your peace of mind, or even your happiness." He says, "It's far greater than your family, your career, or even your wildest dreams or ambitions. If you want to know why you were placed on this planet, you must begin with God. You were born *by* his purpose and *for* his purpose."<sup>2</sup> And that changed my life.

Okay, if I'm going to find this joy and blessing, I actually gotta start with Him; okay, it's about You. And so this Jesus, this King—so listen to me—regardless of what you say in this room right now, He is your King. You're going to hear from your King right now, so whether you bow your knee now or bow your knee in judgment, He's your King. I promise you this, He's your King and He's a good King, that's why we can rejoice, He's a good King. Man, don't run from Jesus, He's good, He's way better than man.

And so here's the thing, this King of our lives, of this world, the rulers and the principalities of this world are pawns to Him. Here's what He's going to say. He's going to be in humble appearance, humble appearance, common looking. He's going to walk up to the mountain with a few followers, most of them not even knowing and understanding what He's about to say, and He's going to say this is what My Kingdom is and this is what My Kingdom is going to be about. And then He opens His lips and this is what we're going to read here in Matthew 5. So He starts after a few verses by saying "Blessed are"—now stop, do not miss this— I just said it in the very beginning.

He's going to list a bunch of characteristics and He's going to say you are not going to *be* blessed if you do those things, you *are* blessed so you can do these things. You get it? You are blessed so live these things, live these characteristics out because you're blessed, you can claim that. So here's the thing, church, the church of God is blessed and Jesus is coming back and we can rejoice and worship and that never changes. [APPLAUSE] Never changes. Doesn't change. If we live in a world that fights, if we live in a world that doesn't fight; if we live in a world that slanders, if we live in a world that doesn't slander; here's the truth—look at me—every political system that will ever exist and has ever existed, human depravity will manifest itself in that system. Promise you, promise you. So, do we rejoice? You can, but I promise you, human depravity will come into that system, regardless of who's in power that will

<sup>1</sup> Warren, Rick. (2002). *The Purpose-Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here for?* (p. 17), Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>2</sup> Warren, Rick. (2002). *The Purpose-Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here for?* (p. 17), Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

exist. So listen, we still need Jesus. Still need Him, never will go without Him, never have any hope without Him. The schemes of man will always be wicked apart from Christ—always. We will always need Jesus, that will never change.

And I know you're not hearing that and I know you're hearing a lot of doomsday or whatever you're hearing, I know you're hearing a lot about the fear that we're talking to our children about. But listen, Jesus is on His throne, He is our hope and that never changes. And if you hear nothing else know that if you are in Christ Jesus you walk in here blessed. And maybe there's fear but you should give that fear to the Lord; maybe there's anxiety but you give that fear to [the Lord]; maybe there's bitterness but you throw that on the cross of Christ and say, "Man, I've been forgiven greatly." And we're going to be challenged here in these next few verses to pursue peace and to pursue forgiveness because we have been forgiven greatly. But here's what He says:

*<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.*

**– MATTHEW 5:1-3 (ESV)**

It says so you know who are blessed? The ones who are poor in spirit. Here's what that means. There's an illustration in Luke Chapter 18 and there's an illustration about the Pharisee and the tax collector, do you remember this? And so the Pharisee comes before the Lord, he says, "Father, I love You. I do all these things for You. I've memorized all these verses. I go to all this religious activity. Look at the way I'm dressed. God, I love You." And then the tax collector says, "Lord, be merciful to me, I am a sinner." And Jesus says I want that guy, He says I want that tax collector; this Pharisee I'm not interested, I want that guy.

Why? Because the tax collector was poor in spirit. What does that mean? It means the tax collector looked upon God and said, "I am a sinner." This is what I bring to the table; all of my love is vinegar to a thirsty King. This is what I offer You, I offer You nothing but my sin. And so this relationship is Lord, You lavish your blessings upon me, I don't deserve it.

#### **The Pharisee and the Tax Collector**

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: *"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to, his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."* - LUKE 18:9-14 (ESV)

Most of us in this room, if you've never given your life to Jesus, here's the reason—you don't think you need it. You don't you think you need Jesus, you like Jesus, you just don't think you need Him. You think you're good enough and here's what you do, you say, "I'm good because I'm better than my neighbor." And your goodness is based on comparison to other people, but you know you're not good. You *know* you're not good. If I would peel open your bedroom at night, you know you're not good. And so poor in spirit is, if you want to be blessed, acknowledge that you are a sinner before the Savior and say this is who I am, I'm a sinner and I'm broken. He says that's a marking of a blessed person. And God can use that, He can use that. He says:

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*<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn,*

— it's the same concept —

*for they shall be comforted.*

– MATTHEW 5:4 (ESV)

It's the idea that not only are you understanding that you are sinful—not the world is sinful, yeah, look at all the sinfulness of the world, man. I'm going to talk about how the world is broken. No-no-no, God says if you want to be blessed you look inside and say man, deal with the mess that *you* have. Look inside and say, "Yeah, I bring a lot to the table." Do you ever wonder right now how everyone is always pointing? This is wrong, this is wrong, you are wrong. But you know what we hardly ever see? [EMITS SOUND OF DISGUST AS HE POINTS AT HIMSELF] He says no-no, the one who's blessed is the one who says, "Yeah, I bring a lot to the table that God's gotta heal and forgive. God, work on my heart before I point out the logs." Right?

*"Blessed are those who mourn"* – it's this is idea of coming before the Lord. I think of King David, if you guys have studied Scripture, King David wrote the whole Psalms. He is a king who is called a man after God's own heart, and I always think it's an amazing thing because King David literally has a resume that's horrible when it comes to Christian conduct. I mean, if I stood before you and I said, "Okay, here's my resume. I saw a girl, thought she was beautiful, killed her husband, and kind of married her. Let's go." And you'd be like, "What in the world is this guy doing on the stage?" Right? It's true, but David is called a man after God's own heart. Why? Because he mourned his sin.



If you look at Psalms, all throughout the Psalms David says I know of my transgressions, Lord. I know of who I am and what I've done before You. And David recognizes that as he has unrepented sin, it separates Him from a relationship with God. And so instead of justifying it he acknowledges it and he mourns over it, "Lord, I know that I'm a sinner, and I know every time I sin it is a reminder that I put You on the cross. And that I need to be right with You, and so I am going to remind myself every day that I'm a sinner, that I'm not enough."

Listen, I know in this room—because we pray over every one of you—that there are a lot of people in this room, and we've heard especially with our female ministry, we've heard a lot of you are dealing with this idea that that you don't think you're enough and it's killing you. And so here's what you're thinking – right? – maybe I'm wrong, but this is what I'm hearing is you're thinking, *Okay I'm not a good enough wife. I'm not a good enough student. I'm not pretty enough. I don't look good enough in clothes. I don't speak good enough. I don't have anything to say, and I just feel like I'm a failure.* And you're contemplating whether or not you're even worth living because you just self-destruct thinking about how hard we are. So when a pastor stands up and says, "Hey, mourn," you're like, "No, no, I already mourn." I'm not saying mourn your capability, that's not what I'm saying. I'm not saying mourn your worth, and that's not what Jesus is saying here either.

Here's what Jesus is saying: What if instead of saying how do I read the next self-help book, how do I go shopping to kind of hide these feelings, instead of doing that, man, instead of chasing after stuff, what if you say this – what if the feeling I have that I'm not good enough is actually not about me? What if it's just a lie that the enemy's placed in my mind? What if it's I don't have enough Jesus? What if it's I

don't have enough Jesus? Here's what I mean—it's what if I'm spending too much time looking at the world and it's contemplating whether or not I fit into it.

**WHAT IF IT'S MORE OF JESUS**

**... AND LESS OF YOU?**

What if it's I need more of Jesus? I need to spend more time in the Word reminding myself of the promises of God. I need more time understanding the blessings I have because I'm in Christ Jesus. I need to let Him speak worth into me. I need to be quick to pray in the morning and not to run towards technology to kind of hide these things inside of me that I need to be fixed because I'm not experiencing joy. What if it's more of Jesus, less of you? Think about it, church, this is what the King says is a path to blessing and joy. It's no, no, no, don't mourn your capability, reflect on what I've done and who I am, find your identity in those. Take a promise of God and put it on the bathroom mirror. He says these are the people in My Kingdom and these are the people that are experiencing joy and blessing. What if it's you need more Jesus? I'm just throwing that into your mind. What if it's you don't need the world to change, what if it's you just need to cling to the promises of God in your life?

Verse 5:

***5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.***

**– MATTHEW 5:5 (ESV)**

When I think of the idea of meekness I think of Moses. You guys remember Moses in Scripture? For those who are studying, Moses is in no way a scared man or some weak man. No-no-no, Moses is a meek man but he's not a weak man and here's why we know that. If you look at Numbers 12 you see this encounter where Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses and Moses is a humble man. He is saying listen, God is the one who's letting me lead the people of Israel through the desert land. Moses is recognizing that without God Moses is just a man, but it doesn't mean he's weak. In fact, I would argue

**Miriam and Aaron Oppose Moses**

[TRUNCATED] Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses . . . And the Lord heard it . . . Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth. And suddenly the Lord said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, "Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting." And the three of them came out. And the Lord came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. And he said, "Hear my words . . . my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house . . . he beholds the form of the Lord . . ." And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them, and he departed. When the cloud removed from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, like snow . . . – NUMBERS 12:1-11 (ESV)

Moses is strong because he's quick to say God, what do You want? God, where do You want to go? God, it's through You. And so when people come against Moses because of his meekness, what happens? God stands in the way and says don't you dare challenge my servant. Because when we're meek, God is strong. When we're weak, He is strong.

And so meekness is this, meekness is saying listen, if I have any worth in this world, if I can love my children, love my wife, be any benefit to you on stage as a 35-year-old man, if I can have any worth, it's recognizing that what I offer you is not me, it's God through me. So if I've made any challenge or if I've had any conviction in your heart what anything I've said right now, here's the truth is that it's God's truth that I'm articulating and it's His power that's hitting your heart and saying, "This is true." So it's His

truth through His power that's gonna change your life, and I'm a vessel for that truth. And so any pride that you live out as a believer is foolishness because it is Christ through you where you're powerful. And so if you say, "This is what I think," but you don't check it with what the Lord says, you're gonna lose your saltiness which we're gonna talk about later. But blessed are the meek, this is what it says, it's amazing.

There's a series out called *The Chosen* and I love the series, they're doing a great job, and some of you saw it. But there's a moment where Nebuchadnezzar talks to Mary Magdalene and she was possessed and so he comes to her and he saw her possessed and he says, "What's different? What changed?" And there's a line I'm gonna quote that I love because I think it shows a beautiful sense of meekness when it comes to Mary's story. She says this in the TV show, she says, "Here's what I can tell you, I was one way and now I'm completely different and the only thing that happened in-between was Him." Don't you love that? That's her story. What happened to you? How did you change? You have such joy and you have such hope. And man, you're not being angry when the world's angry, and you don't have all the anxiety that the world has, and you don't care about the things the world cares about. What happened? I don't know, I used to be that way and – Jesus – and now I'm not. Now I don't think that way and I don't get worried the way I did and I'm not afraid the way I was and I don't hate myself the way I did. And the only thing that happened was I met Him. That's the Gospel, that's the meekness that God says, man, there's blessing in there. When you understand you're sinful, when you wrestle with those sins, mourn those sins, and you recognize that meek spirit of who's the One who set you free.

Verse 6 He says:

***6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.***

**– MATTHEW 5:6 (ESV)**

This is a promise, put this on your refrigerator, this is a promise. He's saying when those of my people hunger and thirst for righteousness – here's what this means: That you have a divine discontent for anything that's not of God. Anything that is unlike God you have a discontent for, you don't care about. That's what it means to humble and thirst for righteousness. Here's practically some examples. When you look at what you love, ask yourself this question: Does Jesus love those things? Or does Jesus show indifference—wake up, church, listen to me—does Jesus throw indifference towards the things that you're passionate for and love towards the things that you don't care about? Then you have to lean in to Him. Okay. Change my heart.

If you will never miss an Eagles football game but you care less about prayer—where's Jesus going? I'm not making fun of football, I'm saying have the love for the things Jesus loves. This is where blessing is, this is where joy is. Jesus loves the sick. Jesus loves the poor. He loves the orphans. He loves the widows. He loves the outcasts. He goes to them and the world mocks Him but He doesn't care because He knows about His Kingdom and this matters, these things don't. He says give to Caesar what is Caesar's, give to God what is God's.<sup>3</sup> So love the things that God loves. God loves people. God sees the heart. God cares about the soul, not the appearance. God cares about the humble heart, the pure heart, not the pageantry; not the look of a person, but the heart of the person. So God cares way more about what you do when you get in your car and drive home than what you do in this room, because what you do when you get home is actually who you are.

<sup>3</sup> See Matthew 22:21

And so God loves the things—this is what it means to hunger and thirst—listen, I'm going to spend my time, my energy, my resources on the things that matter. And if I catch myself doing things that don't, I'm gonna put down that phone and I'm gonna do the thing that matters. And I'm gonna recognize—how many of you have recognized this—how many of you spent so much time on you that you start to get depressed and you're like, "Why am I getting depressed? Oh, wait, I'm spending so much time on me."

And then you step out of that helpless state, because you're not meant to worship yourself, and you start to align yourself, you start to come to church after you've been gone for a couple months and you're like, "Man, I needed this." You start to open up the Word, you start to listen to worship songs. How many of you have ever had – this happened to me this week, you know, I was like *I need to listen to some worship songs*, so I went in my room and I just started listening to God's truth and I just started singing it, restore my soul, Lord, I need to be fed, my soul needs to be fed. I'm starving; I'm hungry for You. This is what it means to be blessed as you hunger and thirst for righteousness. These are passive characteristics in verse 5 about Kingdom characteristics of the followers of Jesus. And then He turns to talk about some passive, I'm sorry, these are some NOT passive characteristics, these are active coming up here. So He goes in verse 7, He says this:



***<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful,***

— again, this is an active, this is an extension —

***for they shall receive mercy.***

– MATTHEW 5:7 (ESV)

And so when I think of this idea I'm like what is He saying there? How do you live mercifully? I think of the good Samaritan parable<sup>4</sup> in Scripture, or I think of Jesus. Right? The King of kings, the author of all that we know—think about this—who was on the cross, who, when He was on the cross being beaten and tortured, He is providing air in the lungs for the people who are mocking Him. He is the sustainer of the universe giving them life as they mock Him. And not only that, He turns to God and what does He say? ***"Father, forgive them, for they know what not they do."***<sup>5</sup>

What does Stephen do when he gets stoned?<sup>6</sup> Do you remember? Stephen is being stoned, he falls on his knees and cries out loud, ***"Lord, do not hold this sin against them."***<sup>7</sup> He is merciful towards those who are stoning him. Picture this with me and take that person and put him into the world we are in today, as they're stoning him, "God, don't hold this – love them, Jesus." He is merciful. Why? Because he has received mercy. Do you need to be right? No. You're saved. Husbands, do you need to be right? No, you're saved, you're blessed, you need to love. Do you need to be praised by man? No. Do you need that promotion? Do you need that security? Do you need that job? Do you need that help? No. You are blessed. So be merciful, love, love those who hate you, love. Why? Because you were loved and you hated. So He's gonna start going into these characteristics, and here all of these are—because He did, you can. This is what He's gonna say; He says you're blessed because you have

<sup>4</sup> See Luke 10:25-37

<sup>5</sup> Luke 23:34 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> See Acts 7:54-60

<sup>7</sup> Acts 7:60a (ESV)

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received mercy so extend it, because every time you don't extend it not only are you going to be blessed but you're going to be a hypocrite. He goes on and He says not only merciful, He says:

<sup>8</sup> *"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

<sup>9</sup> *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

– MATTHEW 5:8-9 (ESV)



And so in your family, maybe right now you have marriage right now that's struggling, and right now you are refusing to forgive each other, and we just learned here that if you want peace you are to be peacemakers, you are to have mercy, you are to be meek, you are to extend forgiveness. Why? Because you have been forgiven. You have been given peace every day of your life. Here's the profound truth: Every day of your life you have failed to give God the glory He deserves – every day.

Every day you and I woke up and we failed to give Him glory. And what is His response? To walk in Christ Jesus. I love you, you are forgiven, you have been set free. I don't hold you to your sins, I have covered your sins with My sacrifice. You are loved, you are forgiven, you are valuable. And every day we wake up and we worship God in that light—and then we spit on our neighbors?

We have different political views but we can't step across the fence and ask for forgiveness for the thoughts that we had towards them. Seriously. We are called to be peacemakers. So guys, listen, Thanksgiving's coming up, guess who's gonna say they're sorry for all the tension? You. *Yeah, but they were wrong.* Yeah, but you're blessed and you may be the only path to Jesus. And your pride you died to when you gave your life to Jesus because you make a horrible god. There's no room for pride when you follow Jesus. You're saved. What are you prideful of? Your sins? So you offer forgiveness. You own your part.

This is what the peacemaker means; it means when you have a spouse and they've done something wrong, as a follower of Jesus you own your part even if it's 10% of the 90 in the 100. Like, what even if you, listen, "I'm sorry for the way I spoke." "I'm sorry for the tone I had." "Man, I'm sorry that in my heart, man, I hated you and I don't even know you." And I extend forgiveness because I am being forgiven every day and I'm going to live out this forgiveness. This is going to be my default for everyone around me. I'm going to be a peacemaker and in that I'll be blessed Jesus says, because justice is His, vengeance is his,<sup>8</sup> but He loves the world and He calls the church to be the hope of it. If we act the way the world does, church, where's the hope? Where's the hope? You want a world to be forgiving? Forgive. You want peace in the world? Be a peacemaker. This is what God says is the author of joy and peace and hope, He says this in the very end: Blessed are those who are peacemakers, but He also says:

<sup>8</sup> "Vengeance is mine" references: Deuteronomy 32:35, Romans 12:19, Hebrews 10:30



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*<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."*

– MATTHEW 5:10-11 (ESV)

He's saying if you follow Me, you will be persecuted but let it be persecuted for My sake. Let them mock you for the amount of love you have for Jesus, let them mock you for the focus you have of the Lord and not the care of this world. Let them laugh when you don't care about the things they care about. Let them mock you when you don't get angry at things that shouldn't make you angry. That's okay, because you love Jesus and you don't need men's approval. You are blessed and you live in that blessing. And so they will persecute you and God says listen, if they persecute you, you're blessed. It's okay, you're okay.

And then He turns in 13, He takes a challenge to what I would argue the church and the individual, He says this:

*<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet."*

– MATTHEW 5:13 (ESV)

And so Jesus is listing ways to be salt and He's saying listen, if you don't live out those things and you chase the things of the world, when you start to think the way that the world thinks, you actually lose your inheritance and you become not salty, you dilute your salt because you're mixing with the world and the world has nothing to offer. Don't miss this. Are you hearing me? So as you think the way the world thinks you lose your impact. It is when you cling to the Vine that you actually can live out these things; and when you live out these things the world's gonna look and say, "There's something different." But if we hate the way the world hates, we're diluting what God has given us. And so we are to claim our inheritance.

This is what makes me angry about this last year is that believers are forgetting their inheritance. Don't! Cling to it, embrace it, live in it because if we lose our inheritance we don't get more, we get less. We get the schemes of man. We get the promises of this world that are few. Listen, I was standing to vote,



**"graveyard as far as the eyes can see"**

I was standing to vote. Listen, I'm voting and I'm thinking, *Okay, I'm going to vote based on what I think about what I should vote for.* And I'm saying, *God is this what You want me to do?* And regardless of that, I look to my right and there's like acres of tombs, graveyard as far as the eyes can see, and I remember sitting there looking and I'm thinking, *All of these people have lived their lives and have died, have cared about politics, have cared about family, have spent all their time getting promotions.* I looked at all these people who are now in the grave and my mind was like, *Every one of them are before Jesus, they're all judged, and what matters to them now should matter to me now.*

## BLESSED

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And I thought, *Okay, there are things that matter to you, Lord. I'm going to be passionate about the things You'll be passionate about. I'm going to care about the things You're going to care about. I'm going to claim my inheritance because I am blessed.* And if I look across these tombs the ones who are blessed are the ones who have given their life to Jesus. The rest does not matter; does not matter what they did with their life, it's who they said Jesus was. And it gave me great peace. It gave me great peace.

And He says listen, church,

***14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.***

— and Jesus says:

***17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.***

– MATTHEW 5:14-17 (ESV)

He says you are blessed, I'm already victorious. And so here are the great truths: Jesus is King and that never ends. He's coming back and the church and the Gospel message is the hope of the world. And so I want to end with this. For many of us we say, "How do I take this and live this out?" If I said to you, "Hey, be a city on the hill, church," you're like, "What does that look like?" And for many of us we just heard Him say these things and we're like, "Aw, but I don't know if I can live those out. I don't know if these are true." And so we make up a lot of things, "The church should do this," and, "The church should do this," and, "If the pastor would just say this," and we have all these things that we want us to do. But Jesus just gave us, church, the answer to the question that you have in your heart: How do I have joy? How do I have happiness?

Don't miss this. If you haven't paid attention all morning, pay attention to this: How do you have ultimate joy and blessing? This is what Jesus would say, this is what the King of kings would say: Be poor in spirit, understand that you're sinful, and when you do that, mourn that sin. Jesus says listen, be meek towards God and others. Understand that God is in control and that He is with you and that He is going to provide for you everything that you need. Be meek, not a prideful, not thinking that you can fix the world, Jesus already conquered it. He says not only that, but be hungry and thirsty for righteousness. Do the things that I did, love the way that I loved. He says be merciful, be pure in heart as you pursue Me and you love Me, don't try to take advantage of people, just love them unconditionally because you are loved unconditionally. He says be a peacemaker. He says when those persecute you, rejoice because they persecuted Me.

This is how you have it, church. I know it doesn't sound, like, grand and life changing. I know I can't put those things down in a book and sell it and have it be the greatest self-help book of all time, but it's the truth. And so this is what the King says you ought to do in His Kingdom, how you should think and how you should live. And so I present that to you, church, to ask you in the world where many of you are rejoicing or mourning, or fearful of COVID or not fearful, wherever you are I pray that you come to this today and you say, "I need to be more like this, and I need to be quick to remind myself that Jesus is King and that does not change."

## BLESSED

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So we're going to go into a time of offering and I'm going to pray for this message and I'm just going to ask you right now to just – if you're online, if you're here in person – I would ask you to just ask the Lord to make that truth known. Listen, last night I was preaching to myself this message, my soul needed it. Like, I need to know that You are good and that You are in control and that I can love You. And when the world fights, Lord, I can rejoice because You've overcome the world. I need that. I don't know about you but I need that. And so Lord, I can rest in your promises. I'm going to forgive. I'm going to go to my spouse or my siblings and I'm going to ask for forgiveness.

So Lord,

I pray right now for your Spirit to come into this place; soften the hearts of the prideful. Father, if people in this room don't think they need You, Lord, I just pray that You would show them that they do. Father, I pray for this world and I pray that the rulers and the principalities, Lord, that they would repent and come to know You. That a revival would sweep through this world unlike something we had ever seen before and it would be marked by peace and meekness and acknowledgement of sin and a humility and a worship of You.

Father, I pray for our giving right now. I pray that it would go towards the things that matter. I pray that You would give us a heart to give, Lord. I thank You for your message. I thank You that You are a humble King that changed the world.

In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

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