

Blessed are Who?  
Matthew 5:1-12

Review:

1. We become subjects of God's Kingdom when we humble ourselves before Him, acknowledging that He alone is Lord.
2. The character of God's subjects is marked by mourning for our sins, hunger for righteousness, and meek recognition that we have no right to special treatment
3. Citizens of the Kingdom of God are called to be merciful, pure and peacemakers, regardless of the persecution that will come our way

Go Further: Read Psalm 24

1. According to verse 1, what belongs to the Lord?
2. What reason does verse 2 give for the truth we find in verse 1? Does it make sense for God to have the right to possess what He has created?
3. What two questions does verse 3 pose?
4. What four answers does verse 4 give to the questions posed in verse 3?
5. What two blessings are promised in verse 5 to those who live according to the dictates of verse 4?
6. Who does verse 5 say is the source of our righteousness? Who does verse 5 say saves us?
7. Who does verse 6 say that those who are righteous seek? How do such priorities help to explain their actions as described in verse 4?
8. Who is commanded to open themselves in verses 7 and 9? Who will be allowed to enter the opening they will create? Can you think of a time in Jesus' earthly ministry when these verses were fulfilled?
9. How is the King of Glory described in verses 8 and 10?

Apply:

1. Verse 1 says that all those who dwell on the earth belong to God – and that includes all of us. How do you feel about belonging to God? What difference should that realization make when it comes to making decisions about how you spend your time, talent, and treasure?
2. At first glance, it might appear that verses 4 and 5 are teaching works righteousness, that we are saved because of what we do. How does Christ's work on the cross fit in with these verses? Could the gifts in verse 5 actually be the cause of the behavior in verse 4?
3. What doors and gates might you need to open in your life? What barriers do you need to remove to allow Jesus greater access to and control of your habits, thoughts and feelings?
4. How does the description of the King of Glory in verses 8 and 10 give you hope and comfort?