

Sermon Title: **“THE BLESSED LIFE EVER”**

Matthew 5:1-12

- Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount stood in stark contrast to the religious leaders of the day
 - They were externally focused (behave/act right) ... but Jesus was internally focused
- A Challenge for EACH of us – to get really serious about our devotion to Almighty God
 - Jesus’ teaching flips the script
 - God’s vision of what a blessed life might look like is perhaps a little different than ours
- The Book of Matthew is written to a Jewish Audience
- Jesus was clearly proclaiming the King had officially arrived!
- Word was spreading all throughout Syria & large crowds were starting to flock around Jesus (what would He do next)
- “He sat down” – this was the customary way for a Rabbi (or Teacher) to instruct
- What Jesus was teaching was radical it was freely offered to those who have normally been looked down upon
- It’s best to see Jesus’ teaching delivered in TWO circles:
- Following Jesus WASN’T & ISN’T Always Easy!!!
 - Receiving MORE Christ comes with MORE opposition from the world
 - DON’T miss the glorious beauty that available through persecution
 - The way we respond to what we face is a bold testimony & it is observed by the ever-watching world
- What Jesus is teaching in the beatitudes is something which He lived perfectly
 - At NO point does God ask us for something that He’s NOT 1st mastered & that He WON’T change us to become!