

# TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?...

A Video Bible Study Series

(John 6:68, NIV)

## EPISODE 3 - BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE SAD

### THE BEATITUDES SERIES (MATTHEW 5:1-12)

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- Jesus was traveling near the Sea of Galilee. There were many people following Him. So, Jesus went up on a mountainside and gathered His core disciples around Him. The crowd found places around the mountainside, to hear what He was going to teach His disciples.
- Jesus began teaching His disciples what is known as the Beatitudes. The word “beatitude” means “blessedness.” There are eight blessings that Jesus taught during the Sermon on the Mount.
- This passage teaches us to look at our hearts and the attitudes God wants us to have toward ourselves, our sin, the Lord, and the world.
- Each statement starts with the word “Blessed” which means we are filled with a joy and peace that cannot be shaken. This kind of joy and peace comes as we put our trust in God.
- Trusting God changes our hearts and attitudes, and we find the blessing and future reward Jesus spoke about.
- The Beatitudes set the tone for the rest of the Sermon on the Mount. These blessed statements show the goodness of God, and that we find our blessing in God alone.



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- **Second Beatitude: Jesus said, “Blessed are those who are sad. They will be comforted.” (Matt. 5:4)**
- This Beatitude isn’t talking about us being sad because we had a bad day. It’s talking about us being sad for our sins. Sin separates us from God, and there is no way we can reach Him on our own. However, Jesus’ death and resurrection bridged that gap between us and God. When we believe that Jesus is our Savior, our sins are washed away!
- Even if we believe in God, it’s important to recognize our sins and ask for His forgiveness. When we feel sorry for disobeying God, turn away from our sin, and ask for forgiveness, this is called **repentance**. So, even though we are sad for our sins, we will be comforted with God’s forgiveness and having eternal life with Him!
- Jesus told a parable, a story with a special meaning, that shows what it means to be sad for our sins. This parable is found in **Luke 18:9-14**.
- Jesus told this parable to some people who were sure they were right with God and looked down on everyone else.
- **Jesus said, “Two men went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and loudly prayed about himself. He said, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men. I am not like robbers or people who do evil things. I am not like those who commit adultery. I am not even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I give a tenth of all I get.’”**
- **“But the tax collector stood at a distance from the Pharisee. He would not even look up to heaven. He brought his hand to his heart and prayed, ‘God, have mercy on me. I am a sinner.’”**
- Jesus went on to say it was the tax collector who went home accepted by God, and not the Pharisee. All those who lift themselves up will be made humble, and those who make themselves humble will be lifted up.

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- Notice that the Pharisee did not confess any sins when he prayed to God. It is likely he believed that he had not committed any sins. He didn't even offer praise or thanksgiving to God. He was only thinking about himself. Even though this Pharisee would have followed the religious traditions of the Law, Jesus makes it clear that he was not accepted by God.
- But the tax collector was different. He stood at a distance from the Pharisee, probably because the Pharisee did not want him close. Back in Jesus' time, tax collectors were considered traitors by the Jewish people, because they collected taxes for the Roman government. People avoided tax collectors, and a Pharisee certainly would not want one near him.
- The tax collector knew he was a sinner. He couldn't even look up to heaven, he was so ashamed. He brought his hand to his heart and prayed for God to have mercy on him, a sinner. This was the prayer God wanted to hear. Because of the man's sadness for his sins, he was accepted by God.
- This is what it means to be sad for our sins. Sin separates us from God, and there is no way we can reach Him on our own. The only way back to God is through Jesus' death and resurrection. When we believe that Jesus is our Savior, our sins are washed away!
- Even if we believe in God, it's important to recognize our sins and ask for His forgiveness. When we feel sorry for disobeying God, turn away from our sin, and ask for forgiveness, this is called **repentance**. This is what the tax collector did in Jesus' story. He asked for God to have mercy on him, a sinner. He knew that he could do nothing apart from God.
- And there is good news when we confess our sins! **1 John 1:9** says, *"But God is faithful and fair. If we confess our sins, He will forgive our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure."*
- This is what Jesus teaches us in the second Beatitude. When we are sad for our sins, we will be comforted with God's forgiveness and having eternal life with Him!

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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### 1. What are the Beatitudes?

- The Beatitudes are blessed statements that Jesus taught His disciples, to show the goodness of God and that we find our blessing in God alone.

### 2. What is the second Beatitude, and what does it mean?

- The second Beatitude is, “Blessed are those who are sad. They will be comforted.” It means if we are sorry for disobeying God, turn away from our sin, and ask for His forgiveness (this is called repentance), we will be comforted with God’s forgiveness and have eternal life with Him!

### 3. In Jesus’ story, what did the Pharisee pray for?

- The Pharisee prayed for himself, and thanked God for not making him like other people. He did not confess any sins because he thought he was better than everyone else.

### 4. What did the tax collector pray for?

- The tax collector could not even look up to heaven, he was so ashamed of his sins. He brought his hand to his heart and prayed for God to have mercy on him, because he was a sinner.

### 5. What did Jesus say at the end of the story?

- Jesus said it was the tax collector who went home accepted by God, and not the Pharisee. All those who lift themselves up will be made humble, and those who make themselves humble will be lifted up.

### 6. What happens when we are sorry for our sins, and ask for God’s forgiveness?

- **1 John 1:9** says, *“But God is faithful and fair. If we confess our sins, He will forgive our sins. He will forgive every wrong thing we have done. He will make us pure.”*
- When we are sad for our sins, we will be comforted with God’s forgiveness and having eternal life with Him!

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## PERSONAL QUESTIONS

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### 1. How can you live out the second Beatitude in your own life?

- Confess your sins, turn away from them, and ask for God's forgiveness. This is called **repentance**. When you are sad for your sins, know that you will be comforted with God's forgiveness and eternal life with Him.

### 2. How can you encourage someone else with the Beatitudes?

- Pray with them and encourage them to read God's Word. Invite them to church or to Friendship group. Share how much you love God, and the blessings He has given you in your life.

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