

# TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?...

A Video Bible Study Series

(John 6:68, NIV)

## EPISODE 4 - BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE HUMBLE

### 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.
- ***Third Beatitude: “Blessed are those who are humble. They will be given the earth.” (Matt. 5:5)***



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- Another word for humble is “meek.” This does not mean that we should be pushovers. It means we should stop putting ourselves first and make God our first priority. Jesus is really saying, “don’t be selfish.” We should be careful not to fill our lives with things that distract us from God guiding us. This is why it’s so important to pray, spend time reading His Word, and be in Christian community. He gives us these tools to draw us closer to Him, and to share His Good News with others.
- When we rely on God for guidance, wisdom, and strength, we will someday inherit everything He possesses!
- There are many examples in the Bible of people putting God first (and many examples of people who do not). Let’s talk about someone in the Bible who was humble before Jesus. His name was Zacchaeus, and he was a tax collector. This story is found in the **Gospel of Luke 19:1-10**.
- Jesus was passing through Jericho. A man named Zacchaeus lived there. He was a chief tax collector and was very rich. Zacchaeus wanted to see who Jesus was. But he was a short man. He could not see Jesus because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree. He wanted to see Jesus, who was coming that way.
- Jesus reached the spot where Zacchaeus was. He looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay at your house today.” So Zacchaeus came down at once and welcomed him gladly.
- All the people saw this. They began to whisper among themselves. They said, “Jesus has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”
- But Zacchaeus stood up. He said, “Look, Lord! Here and now, I give half of what I own to those who are poor. And if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay it back. I will pay back four times the amount I took.”
- Jesus said to Zacchaeus, “Today salvation has come to your house. You are a member of Abraham’s family line. The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them.”
- The Bible says that Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector in Jericho and very rich. 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 they were outcasts in the community. Not only do we know that Zacchaeus was a tax collector, but he was the chief tax collector for that area. He was also very rich. Many tax collectors back in those days would keep any leftover tax money for themselves. It is likely that Zacchaeus was rich because he was keeping leftover money from the people's taxes. He was basically stealing from his neighbors. This would have made him very unpopular, and even hated, in the community.

- But when Jesus passed through Jericho, Zacchaeus wanted to see him. He even went out of his way to climb a sycamore-fig tree to see Jesus, because he was short and couldn't see over the crowd. Zacchaeus was more than just curious; the Holy Spirit was stirring his heart to seek after something that money couldn't buy.
- Jesus saw Zacchaeus in the tree and told him to come down; He was to stay at his house that day. The Bible says that Zacchaeus immediately came down and welcomed Jesus gladly.
- The crowd grumbled when they saw Jesus talking to Zacchaeus. Remember, he would have been an outcast in the community.
- But Zacchaeus stood up and proclaimed he would give half of what he owned to the poor. Then he would pay back anyone that he had cheated. He would pay back four times the amount he had taken.
- The Holy Spirit had opened Zacchaeus' heart to the love and salvation that Jesus offered. Before meeting Jesus, money and wealth had been Zacchaeus' first priority. But now, Jesus was his priority! Zacchaeus humbled himself before God and vowed to give half of his possessions away to the poor and pay back four times the amount he had stolen from people.

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- Jesus praised Zacchaeus, saying that salvation had come to his house that day. Zacchaeus was now a member of Abraham's family line, which meant

that he was a child of God. The Son of Man (Jesus) came to look for the lost and save them.

- It's important that we humble ourselves before God and make Him our first priority. We should be careful not to fill our lives with things that distract us from God guiding us.
- **Revelation 21:7**; *“Those who have victory will receive all this from me. I will be their God, and they will be my children.”*
- The third Beatitude teaches us that when we are humble and obedient to God, we will someday inherit everything He possesses. It's important to pray, spend time reading His Word, and be in Christian community. God gives us these tools to draw us closer to Him, and to share His Good News with others.
- When we rely on God for guidance, wisdom, and strength, we are promised to inherit everything He possesses!

## 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 third Beatitude, and what does it mean?

- The third Beatitude is, “Blessed are those who are humble. They will be given the earth.” It means we need to make God our first priority, and look to Him as the source of guidance, wisdom, and strength in our lives. We draw closer to Him through prayer, reading the Bible, and being in Christian community.

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**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED**

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### 3. Why did Zacchaeus want to see Jesus?

- Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus because the Holy Spirit was stirring his heart to seek after something that money or power couldn't give him. Only Jesus can fill our hearts with overflowing love and satisfaction.

### 4. What did Zacchaeus say he would do?

- Zacchaeus said that he would give half of what he owned to the poor. He would also pay back anything he had cheated from others. He would pay back four times the amount that he took.

### 5. How did Jesus respond?

- Jesus praised Zacchaeus, saying that salvation had come to his house that day. Zacchaeus was now a member of Abraham's family line, which meant that he was a child of God. The Son of Man (Jesus) came to look for the lost and save them.

## PERSONAL QUESTIONS

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

- Humble yourself before God. Make Him your first priority, above all earthly things. Pray, study His Word, and be in Christian community. Look to Him for guidance, wisdom, and strength.

### 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.