

The Beatitudes - Introduction

What does the word “beatitude” mean? Is it a flying insect that is in a bad mood? Bee-attitude? No, the word comes from a Latin word that means blessed. It has the meaning of being truly happy or fortunate and relates to the term in the Tanach – אֲשֵׁרֵי *ashrei* . In Psalm 1 we read about a man who is blessed – who is careful about those with whom he walks, sits, and stands. He delights in God’s Torah, and meditates on it day and night. Being blessed then is having those things which are of the greatest value in life!



Are you happy? What we want to talk about in the next few weeks is more than just your current feelings of happiness or sadness. What we want to learn about is what the Messiah taught about true happiness, or more literally, being blessed. We will also be memorizing the nine Beatitudes Yeshua taught as they were recorded in the book of Matthew.

Yeshua had quite a lot to say about how we should live life and what we should value. Once, on a mountain, he sat down and taught his disciples nine things that could be said to describe those who are truly happy. He said, “Blessed are...” nine times. Through these beatitudes we can learn what it means to be truly happy in life.

Here’s what Yeshua taught his disciples:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

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

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matt 5:3-12

Starting next week you will be introduced to two characters – a frog and an otter. Their story will hopefully help you understand what Yeshua is teaching. Parents, join with us during this time and take what we are discussing here home with you. If you need to learn the lessons too – listen well! Your role as a parent is to teach diligently. How well are your children learning these messages?

For Further Study Families read and consider these topics for discussion:

- 1) Psalm 1 and 2 Tim 3:16,17 – Relate Blessedness with the importance of Scripture in our lives
- 2) Psalm 128, Proverbs 1:1-7, and Deut 13:4 – Relate Blessedness with Fear of God and Wisdom
- 3) Psalm 84 – Blessedness of God’s Dwelling place, praising Him, and trusting Him