

Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025
52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know

Week 6 BEING COMES BEFORE DOING

Matthew verse 5:6

**“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst righteousness,
for they will be filled”**

Jesus began His famous Sermon on the Mount with a series of verses that have become known as the Beatitudes. The verse for this week is planted squarely in the middle of this section. All the Beatitudes coming before it point to it, and all the ones following it issue out of it. The Beatitudes are not a set of rules, such as the Ten Commandments, by which we are to live. The Ten Commandments have to do with actions; the Beatitudes have to do with attitudes. The Ten Commandments have to do with conduct; The Beatitudes have to do with character. Our actions flow from our attitudes and our conduct issues out of our character.

The Pathway Towards the Life of Blessing - “Matthew 5: 3-5”

The pathway begins with the first beatitude: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven” (verse 3). That is, blessed are the ones who realise their total abject poverty, spiritually speaking, without the Lord Jesus Christ. The next step along this pathway is found in the second beatitude: “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted” (verse 4). It’s not enough to simply realise that without Christ we are spiritually poverty stricken. Blessing emanates from the fact that we are grieved at our spiritual condition, and actually mourn over that fact. The final step is found in the next beatitude: “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth” (verse 5). The use of the word meek here mean that, having acknowledged our spiritual poverty and mourn over our spiritual neglect, we submit our lives to God.

The Passageway Into the Life of Blessing “Matthew 5: 6”

Now at the fourth beatitude, we arrive at the passageway into a life of blessing: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst righteousness, for they will be filled”. It is not those who are hungering and thirsting after happiness who are being satisfied. It is those who strive for the righteousness of Christ in their own lives.

The Proofs Issuing Out Of the Life of Blessing “Matthew 5: 7-10”

The first three beatitudes show us the pathway. The middle one shows us the passageway, and the final beatitudes reveal the proof that a person is living the Spirit-controlled life. The first proof is found here: “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy” (Matthew 5:7). Having received mercy in our thirst for righteousness, our first reaction is to show mercy to those who are around us. The next proof of a Spirit-controlled life is found in these words: “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God” (v8). It becomes as natural as water running downhill for the individual who is pursuing God to have a pure heart in motives and morals. The third proof is found in the next beatitude: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God” (v9). Note that Christ pronounces a blessing here on the “peacemakers,” not the peace lovers. These peacemakers are the active promoters of unity among the family of God. And note that they are not made sons of God by this outward manifestation, but they are “called” sons of God. They are recognised by others as such. As we meditate on these words of Christ, we should be asking ourselves, *Am I extending mercy even to those who may not be deserving? Is my heart pure? Am I a promoter of love and unity with those around me?*

Finally, Jesus said, “Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (v10). If we are not meeting the devil head-on from time to time, we are most likely going the same way he is heading! In the beatitudes, God is reminding us that although we live and interact here in this physical realm, we are in fact, members of another kingdom - one that lasts throughout the endless ages of eternity.

As you memorise this verse this week, meditate on the fact that God has a life of blessing for you and remember that **being comes before doing,**
for what we do is always determined by who we are.