

Matthew 5:1-12 NAS

Eight Eternal Blessings For Those Who Die In Jesus!

Sunday, November 3 at 8:00 & 10:45

Monday, November 4 at 7 PM

All Saints Day Observed – 2013

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Because of our sin, each of our lives will end in death. However, death – **for all who die in Jesus** – has been transformed into a great blessing! *Death has become the doorway to paradise!*

Today's text is the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. This is the setting: **¹ And when He [Jesus] saw the multitudes, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. ² And opening His mouth He began to teach them...**

Today we will focus on eight statements which tell us:

- **Now:** How to live as disciples of Jesus.
- **In Eternity:** The blessings which will be ours.

1. How Believers See Themselves:

- a. **³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”** // The poor in spirit are those who, *by God's grace*, ♦are aware of their helplessness to save themselves AND ♦believe in Jesus as their only Savior! *They are blessed with membership in God's kingdom now and forever!*

- b. **⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”** // The mourning ones are those who know that God is holy and they are not, they also know that their sin did separate them from God. Therefore, *by God's grace*, they are ♦sorry for their sins and ♦*have God's blessed comfort of forgiveness now and forever!*

2. How Believers Function in the World:

- a. **⁵ “Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.”** // The gentle ones are saved through Jesus, *so they model the gentle ways in which Jesus interacted with the tax collectors and sinners*; Jesus did not condemn them, but, instead, *He loved them!* Therefore, *God, their Father*, will provide their needs now and forever!
- b. **⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”** // The hungering and thirsting ones are those who, *by God's grace*, are righteous in God's sight AND *desire to live righteous lives to God's glory*. Here we all fall short, but *in eternity God will grant full satisfaction!*
- c. **⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”** // The merciful ones, *by God's grace*, have had their spiritual eyes opened to see God's mercy to them. They know they have sinned and deserved punishment, but they also trust in Jesus who took their sins AND their punishment! Therefore, *having received great*

mercy, they desire to show great mercy to others! Furthermore, *they will experience the fullness of God's mercy for all eternity!*

- d. ⁸ **“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”** // True purity is more than an outward goodness; *God looks upon the heart.* By nature every heart is filthy, *but God is in the cleaning business!* Furthermore, *for every heart which has been purified by the blood of Jesus, such people desire to honor the LORD now and will rejoice with Him forevermore!*
- e. ⁹ **“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”** // The peacemakers are those who are *at peace with God through Jesus.* They were at war with God, but now, *by God's grace,* they are at peace with Him. Therefore, they share God's Word – *the means through which He brings true peace.* Furthermore, *they treasure their membership in God's forever family!*

3. **How Believers are Treated by Others:** ¹⁰ **“Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”** ¹¹ **Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me.** ¹² **Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”** // The ones who know Jesus *will speak and live for Him.* As they do so,

their *righteous lives* will automatically point to the *unrighteous lives* of those who do not know Jesus. *Then such living will result in persecution.* Even though such persecution is not pleasant, *God has His purposes:*

- a. To draw us closer to Him!
- b. To cause us to dig into His Word!
- c. To grow us up in Jesus!
- d. To use us to shine the light of Jesus to others!
- e. To assure us of our **membership in His kingdom!**

Conclusion: For our loved ones who have died in Jesus, *let us be at peace as we remember how much God has blessed them!* Then, *between now and the time God welcomes us into heaven,* let us:

- Stay in God's Word!
- Rejoice in our blessedness through Jesus!
- Function as faithful followers of our Savior!

And all God's people said: **Amen!**