



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

The Beatitudes are not lists of things we are supposed to do, and they are not things that we will only realize in heaven someday. They are things we can experience here and now if we are following Jesus.

When have you realized a spiritual blessing when feeling completely powerless in a situation?

When have you realized that God will be there with you even when you lose something that means very much to you?

When have you been content with who you are, and thanked God?

When have you longed to be closer to God, and realized He will always satisfy that longing?

When has your heart been filled with mercy (compassion) for others, and then had God show you His mercy?

When has having your heart right with God allowed you to see Him everywhere in the world around you?

When have you shown someone how to cooperate, and realized the peace that comes from being in a close relationship with God?

When have you suffered for your commitment to God, and realized God was holding onto you?

Behind the story

Read Luke's accounts of Jesus' teaching in **Luke 6:20-26**. A paradox is a statement that seems to contradict itself. Which verses best describe the paradoxes of the kingdom of heaven? Explain.

Jesus Teaches The Beatitudes BETWEEN THE LINES

Take some time to read the story of the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12.



WHAT DOES IT SAY?

We have read how Jesus called His disciples and began healing the sick. In this account, when the crowds pressed in, where did He go?

Who came to Him and what did Jesus begin to do?

Jesus was preparing His followers to teach others. List below the words you see repeated most often in this passage:

List below all 9 things that Jesus said are 'blessed' in this passage:



WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

No one could teach like Jesus. These verses represent things that Jesus said often. How would you describe His message?

Which of these teachings do you think meant the most to His followers?

How was each of these statements different from what most religious teachers taught?

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