



**SERIES: November – December – Walking with Jesus**

**SPEAKER: JACOB WIRKA**

**Wednesday, 11/10/21**

**Scripture: Matthew 5:3-5**

**TITLE: Getting the Right Lyrics**

I love listening to music! But sometimes, I misunderstand the lyrics. I can think of many times when I listened and sang along to the same song repeatedly without realizing that I was singing the wrong words! Once somebody points out the lyrics, I can never hear the song the same way again! And I wonder how could I have heard the song many times and not understood what they were saying! Maybe you can relate.

When we look at the Old Testament, we see that God had given Israelites Ten Commandments to help them understand how they were to live in a relationship with each other and with God. But they misunderstood the law. The Israelites continued to twist it and change it with time.

Today, we will look at the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount known as the Beatitudes. This is one of Jesus' most powerful explanations of how we are supposed to live. In the sermon, Jesus explains what God wanted from His people. He's going to explain what the lyrics to the song were all along.

To understand these Beatitudes, view them through the lens of the Gospel message. The Gospel is the good news of what Jesus did by giving His perfect life as a sacrifice on the cross to pay for all of our sins and conquered death so that we could have a hope of forgiveness of sin and eternal life by trusting and who He is and what He did for us!

With this good news in mind, let's look at the beginning of his sermon on the Mount.

Matthew 5:3 says, "[Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.](#)"

When I think about people being poor, it doesn't sound like a blessing, but we have to think about the Gospel. To be the poor in spirit is to remember that we are spiritually poor. This means that spiritually speaking, we have absolutely nothing to offer God. We are sinners in need of a savior. We couldn't do anything to earn forgiveness for our sin. It is completely by the work of Jesus. We are blessed when we remember that we are spiritually in poverty and that Jesus has given us everything we need.

Next, we read, verse 4, "[Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.](#)" When I think of mourning, I think about serious pain. Usually, what comes to mind is a funeral or the loss of a loved one. This is deep and painful mourning. Again, I believe Jesus is speaking in spiritual terms. Looking to the Gospel, what should we mourn for? I believe this is talking about sin. Jesus says we are blessed if we truly understand our sin; we are blessed if we truly mourn

and feel sorry for sin because we realize just how terrible it is. But we will be comforted because we trust in Jesus was overcome our sin!

Lastly, verse 5 says "[Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.](#)" To be meek is to be mild or gentle. Or perhaps a better translation is the idea of being submissive, like submitting to authority. That isn't easy to do. But when we look to the Gospel, we understand that we are blessed when we realize that we are not in control. We are blessed when we are meek enough to submit to the authority of God and remember that He is in control, not us.

As we look at these Beatitudes, we see that Jesus' way of living and thinking is very different than the way of this world. This is because He came to show us how we were always meant to be from the beginning. Jesus came to tell us what the words to the song were all along; once we hear what the lyrics are, we'll never hear the song the same way again. In the same way, once the Gospel begins to transform our hearts, our desires begin to change from the inside out, and we start to see the world differently; we begin to think and live the way we were always meant to live from the beginning!