

UNLEASHED
JOHN 8:36

CHARACTER

KINGDOM LIVING FROM THE INSIDE OUT

MATTHEW 5:16 (NKJV)

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

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TONIGHT'S FOCUS

- Jesus unleashes believers by transforming character and not just correcting conduct.
- The Beatitudes redefine what it means to be “blessed.”
- Kingdom character is countercultural.
- **Salt and Light:** Our influence is the overflow of our inner life.
- **Application:** What is God forming in me right now?

MATTHEW 5:3 – 10 (NKJV)

- 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
- 4 Blessed are those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.**
- 5 Blessed are the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.**
- 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness,**

- 7 Blessed are the merciful,
For they shall obtain mercy.**
- 8 Blessed are the pure in heart,
For they shall see God.**
- 9 Blessed are the peacemakers,
For they shall be called sons of God.**
- 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for
righteousness' sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

THE BEATITUDES REDEFINE SUCCESS.

**KINGDOM CHARACTER IS
COUNTERCULTURAL.**

**THEY ARE AN INSIDE OUT
TRANSFORMATION.**

**Blessed is not equivalent to being comfortable
or popular.**

Character is formed before impact is seen.

The Spirit produces what discipline alone cannot.

WHAT JESUS CALLS 'BLESSED'

THE POOR IN SPIRIT – HUMBLE DEPENDENCE

(Verse 3)

- To be poor in spirit means to be humble, to have a correct estimate of oneself.
- It does not mean not to have any back bone.

“POOR IN SPIRIT”

“Poor in spirit” is the opposite of the world’s attitudes of self-praise and self-assertion.

It is not a false humility that says, “I am not worth anything, I can’t do anything!”

It is honesty with ourselves: we know ourselves, accept ourselves, and try to be ourselves to the glory of God.

ROMANS 12:3 (NKJV)

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

WHAT JESUS CALLED ‘BLESSED’ THE MERCIFUL – COMPASSION IN ACTION (Verse 7)

To be **merciful** means to have a heart that **feels compassion** *and then moves to action*. It’s not just pity, sympathy, or emotion.

It is **love that responds, grace that helps, and kindness that lifts burdens.**

WHAT JESUS CALLS 'BLESSED'

Mercy is compassion with hands and feet. It means you don't give people what they *deserve*; you give them what they *need*.

What mercy looks like:

- Forgiving others instead of holding grudges
- Helping the hurting instead of ignoring them
- Showing patience with the weak instead of judging them
- Offering grace to those who failed instead of condemning them

THE PROMISE OF THE VERSE

Jesus saying those who live with mercy toward others will **“obtain mercy”** means:

- God continues to deal with them through **grace**, not harshness.
- They experience God’s **ongoing compassion**, help, and forgiveness.
- **Merciful people reflect God’s heart, and God makes sure mercy follows them.**

LUKE 6:36 (NKJV)

**Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also
is merciful.**

**This directly connects mercy to the character of
God and calls believers to live it out.**

WHAT JESUS CALLS 'BLESSED' THE PURE IN HEART – UNDIVIDED DEVOTION

(Verse 8)

God doesn't start with behavior. He starts with the heart.

To be **pure in heart** means your inner life is **clean, sincere, and fully devoted to God.**

It is not divided between God and sin, or God and self. It's not just about outward behavior; it's about **inward motives, true worship, and a single focus.**

WHAT JESUS CALLS 'BLESSED'

**Pure in heart is a heart that belongs to God
without mixed loyalties.**

It's undivided devotion.

**It is wanting God more than you want approval,
pleasure, control, or attention.**

What purity looks like:

- A heart that loves holiness, not hidden compromise
- Obedience that flows from love, not performance
- Serving God with sincerity, not for show
- Repenting quickly instead of pretending

THE PROMISE OF THE VERSE

Jesus saying the pure in heart “**shall see God**” means:

- They recognize God’s hand at work in real time
- They experience deeper fellowship and spiritual clarity
- Ultimately, they will see God fully in eternity

Jesus was saying,

“When your heart is clean and loyal, your spiritual vision becomes clear.”

Purity is not perfection; it is devotion without division.

**THE THEME OF LARRY CRABB'S
“INSIDE OUT”**

**Real spiritual change is not cosmetic; it is
internal.**

PROVERBS 4:23 (NKJV)

**Keep your heart with all diligence,
For out of it spring the issues of life.**

“The heart is the source, not the surface.”

This statement means that **everything you see on the outside, words, attitudes, reactions, habits, and decisions, flows from what is happening on the inside.**

God is not primarily focused on external appearance or behavior modification; He is focused on the **heart**, because the heart is the *root system* that produces the fruit of your life.

THE THEME OF LARRY CRABB'S “INSIDE OUT”

In other words, “The outside is a symptom; the heart is the cause.”

- God uses pressure and pain to expose what truly rules our hearts.
- The Spirit forms Christlikeness from the inside out.

WHAT JESUS CALLS 'BLESSED'

THE PEACEMAKERS – BRIDGE-BUILDERS

(Verse 9)

A **peacemaker** is not someone who avoids conflict, but is someone who **brings God's peace into conflict.**

Peacemakers are **bridge-builders**: they work to reconcile people to God and to one another, refusing to be agents of division, gossip, or strife.

WHAT JESUS CALLS 'BLESSED'

Peacemaking is not keeping quiet; it's pursuing unity through truth and love.

This is not fake peace or “just let it go” peace; it is **Kingdom peace** that brings healing, restoration, and order.

What peacemakers do:

- They **calm storms**, not create storms
- They **heal relationships**, not stir division
- They tell the truth **with love**, not with pride

Peacemakers **build bridges** between:

- people and people
- families and families
- the church and the community
- and most importantly, **sinner and God through Christ.**

PROMISE OF THE VERSE

Jesus saying peacemakers “**shall be called sons of God**” means:

- They resemble their Father, because **God is the great Reconciler.**
- Their lifestyle proves their identity.
- People recognize God’s nature in them.

WHAT JESUS CALLS 'BLESSED'

A peacemaker reflects the Father's heart, restoring what the enemy tried to destroy.

Peacemakers don't just stop fights; they build bridges and restore God's order.

JAMES 3:18 (NKJV)

**Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace
by those who make peace.**

WHAT JESUS CALLS 'BLESSED' THOSE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS – FAITHFUL UNDER PRESSURE

(Verse 10)

To be **persecuted for righteousness** means you face opposition, criticism, exclusion, or suffering **because you are committed to living God's way.**

This is not persecution for being difficult or disrespectful; it's pressure that comes when you **refuse to compromise.**

WHAT JESUS CALLS 'BLESSED'

Faithful under pressure means you stay loyal to God when obedience becomes costly.

It means you keep standing for truth even when it makes you unpopular.

What persecution can look like:

- Being mocked for holiness and convictions
- Being rejected for refusing sin
- Being lied on or misunderstood
- Being treated unfairly for doing what is right
- Being “cancelled” because you won’t conform

KEY TRUTH

Jesus teaches that righteousness makes you a target, because the world resists what exposes it.

Righteous living confronts unrighteous systems. So when you live like Jesus, pressure is inevitable.

PROMISE OF THE VERSE

Jesus saying “**theirs is the kingdom of heaven**” means:

- They belong to God’s Kingdom now.
- Heaven backs their suffering.
- Their reward is secure and eternal.

WHAT JESUS CALLS 'BLESSED'

When you suffer for doing right, you are not defeated; you are confirmed. Heaven is yours.

Pressure doesn't prove you're losing; it proves you're living righteous in a crooked world.

1 PETER 3:14 (NKJV)

But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."

Peter echoes Jesus:

Suffering for righteousness is still blessing.