**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr, March 12, 2023**

**The Blessed Life According To Jesus**

Matthew 5:1-12

**Key Truth:** God’s power at work in you enables you to reflect the characteristics of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom.

**The Purpose of the Sermon On The Mount:**

1. Jesus Christ is teaching His disciples about the ethical and moral

 life of the Kingdom of God lived out on earth.

**The Character Traits Of Kingdom Citizens:**

1. *Poor in spirit* - Those that recognize their spiritual emptiness

 and need for Jesus Christ will be rewarded with entrance into

 His Kingdom.

2. *Those who mourn* – Those who recognize the severity of

 their sin and grieve, will be comforted by God’s love and

 forgiveness.

3. *The meek* – Those who walk humbly with Jesus and others

 will be rewarded with greater responsibility in God’s new

 earth.

4. *Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness* – When we

 seek the righteousness that comes from knowing Jesus,

 we can expect God to satisfy our spiritual hunger.

5. *The merciful* – Showing compassion, forgiveness, and mercy

 to others will in turn, allow us to receive the same from people.

6. *The pure in heart* – The person whose heart is wholeheartedly

 devoted to God with no ulterior motives, will experience more of

 God’s presence.

7. *The peacemakers* – When we are living and working for

 reconciliation with others, we will be known as children of God.

8. *Those persecuted for righteousness’s sake* – We should

 expect to suffer for our identification and loyalty to Jesus but, in

 the end we will be vindicated.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Allow the love of Jesus Christ to impact our lives daily so that we might display God’s mercy and love to the world as He changes us from the inside out.

**Connection Group Homework:**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

What are some of the most memorable or significant blessings you have experienced in your life thus far? What makes those blessings stand out from others?

In what ways did any of these blessings alter your life’s course or significantly change your way of thinking?

Read Matthew 5:7-12: How is the focus different from the previous section? What do the four attitudes in verses 7-12 have in common?

When do you typically want to seek revenge? When do you find it most challenging to show mercy to another?

Read Philippians 1:29: Have you ever been persecuted in some way because of your faith in Christ? How did you respond?

Read Matthew 5:10-12: What does this mean for Christians when it comes to defining “success.” How do you define success as a citizen of God’s kingdom, and how does that compare with the culture’s definition?

Which of the characteristics of the Beatitudes describes you currently? What is your current situation and which blessing do you seek?

Which of the Beatitudes would you like to make more part of your life?

Read Acts 5:1-6: Did Ananias and his wife act with a pure heart when they gave the proceeds to the church? Why do you think God responded the way He did?

Choose one relationship this week in which you want to model what it means to be blessed. Serve that person in a tangible way.