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## The Beatitudes of Life

Pastor Grant H. McCray IV

11am Bible Study – June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Session 1: Understanding the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-6)

Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount:

**Context:** The Beatitudes are the opening statements of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew 5-7. This sermon outlines the ethics of the Kingdom of Heaven and provides a vision of life that Jesus calls His followers to embrace.

Blessed are the Poor in Spirit:

**Definition:** "Poor in spirit" refers to recognizing one's own spiritual bankruptcy and complete dependence on God. It is an attitude of humility and awareness of our need for God's grace.

Blessed are Those who Mourn:

**Understanding Mourning:** Mourning here can refer to grief over personal sin, the brokenness of the world, and the suffering of others. It is a deep sorrow that leads to repentance and compassion.

Blessed are the Meek:

**Clarifying Meekness:** Meekness is not weakness but controlled strength. It involves being gentle, patient, and humble, trusting in God's justice and timing rather than seeking to assert oneself.

Blessed are Those who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness:

**Desire for Righteousness:** This Beatitude speaks to a deep longing for personal righteousness (being right with God) and social justice (seeing God's will done on earth). It is a passionate pursuit of God's standards.

#### Discussion Questions from the Topic

What does being "poor in spirit" look like in our daily lives?

How have you experienced God's comfort in times of mourning?

In what ways can we demonstrate meekness in our interactions with others? What does it mean to hunger and thirst for righteousness today?