

IT DEPENDS ON WHO YOU DEPEND ON

The Keys to a Blessed Life – Message 1

MATTHEW 5:3

“BLESSED are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (NIV)

“God blesses those who realize their need for him . . .” (NLT)

“ . . . who recognize they are spiritually helpless . . .” (GW)

“ . . . who depend only on HIM . . .” (CEV)

“ . . . who know they have great spiritual needs . . .” (NCV)

“The Lord God blesses everyone who trusts him and depends on him.”

Psalm 146:5 (CEV)

TO BE “POOR IN SPIRIT” MEANS

HOW DO I DO THIS?

1. _____

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”

Proverbs 14:12 (NIV)

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in ALL you do, and he will direct your paths. Don’t be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, respect the Lord and turn your back on evil.”

Proverbs 3:5-7 (NLT)

“If any of you lack wisdom, you should pray and ask God, who gives it generously and graciously to all.”

James 1:5

2. _____

“You bless all who depend on you for their strength.”

Psalm 84:5a (CEV)

“Those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak.”

Isaiah 40:31 (TEV)

“I walk in the strength of the Lord.”

Psalm 71:16a (LB)

“My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart. He is mine forever!”

Psalm 73:26 (NLT)

3. _____

“I trust in you, O Lord. You are my God. My times are in your hands.”

Psalm 31:14-15a

“God has set the right time for everything.”

Ecclesiastes 3:11a (TEV)

“I am the Lord, and when it is time, I will make these things happen quickly.”

Isaiah 60:22b (NCV)

“I trust the Lord God to save me, and I will wait for him to answer my prayer.”

Micah 7:7 (CEV)

4. _____

“God blesses and protects everyone who runs to him.”

Psalm 2:12 (CEV)

“I depend on God alone; I put my hope in him. He alone protects and saves me; he is my defender, and I shall never be defeated. My salvation and honor depend on God; he is my strong protector; he is my shelter!”

Psalm 62:5-7 (TEV)

5. _____

“And my God will supply all my needs from his abundant wealth because of what Christ Jesus has done for us.”

Philippians 4:19

MY FIRST STEP IN EXPRESSING MY DEPENDENCE

“This is what happens in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old sin behind and when we came up out of the water, we entered into a new life of grace. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; and when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. We are raised to live a new life.”

Romans 6:3-5 (Mes/NLT)

HOW GOD BLESSES BROKEN HEARTS

The Keys to a Blessed Life – Message 2

“God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

Matthew 5:4

• GOD DOESN'T EXPECT ME TO BE

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven . . . There is a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4

•

“When I kept things to myself, I felt weak deep inside me. I moaned all day long.”

Psalm 32:3 (NCV)

“I was silent and held my peace to no avail. My distress only grew worse.”

Psalm 39:2 (ESV)

HOW DOES GOD BLESS BROKEN HEARTS?

1.

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted, and he saves those whose spirits have been crushed.”

Psalm 34:18 (NCV)

“I will never leave you and I will never abandon you.”

Hebrews 13:5

“Our hearts ache, but at the same time we have the joy of the Lord.”

2 Corinthians 6:10a (LB)

2.

“When Jesus saw Lazarus’ sister sobbing, and saw how all those with her were crying also, his heart was touched, and he was deeply moved . . . Then Jesus started crying. ‘See how much he loved Lazarus!’ they said.”

John 11:33-36

(Jesus) “He has sent me to comfort all who mourn, to give to those who mourn in Zion joy and gladness instead of grief, and a song of praise instead of sorrow.”

Isaiah 61:2-3 (TEV)

3. _____

“In Christ we who are many form one Body, and each member belongs to all the others . . . Be devoted to each other like a loving family . . . Rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn.”

Romans 12:5,10,15 (NIV/GW)

You weren’t meant to go through grief on your own!

“Comfort each other and give each other strength.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ICB)

4. _____

“Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.”

Proverbs 20:30 (TEV)

“We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him . . .”

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

“These troubles are getting us ready for an eternal glory that will make all our troubles seem like nothing. Things that are seen don’t last forever, but things that are not seen are eternal. That’s why we keep focused on the things that can’t be seen.”

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (CEV)

5. _____

“We don’t want you to be ignorant about believers who have died. We don’t want you to grieve like the people who have no hope.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13 (GW)

“God will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things will have passed away.”

Revelation 21:4 (NIV)

6. _____

“God comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others with the same comfort we received from God.”

2 Corinthians 1:4

Every day I either need comfort or need to comfort others.

THE STRENGTH OF GENTLENESS

The Keys to a Blessed Life – Message 3

“God blesses those who are gentle. The whole earth will belong to them!”

Matthew 5:5

GENTLENESS IS _____

BENEFITS OF BEING GENTLE

1. GENTLENESS _____

“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

Proverbs 15:1 (NIV)

“If your boss is angry with you, don’t quit! A quiet, gentle spirit can overcome even great mistakes.”

Ecclesiastes 10:4 (NLT)

2. GENTLENESS _____

“We respond gently when evil things are said about us.”

1 Corinthians 4:13 (NLT)

“Your conversation should be so sensible that anyone who wants to argue will be ashamed because there won’t be anything to criticize in anything you say!”

Titus 2:8 (LB)

“The Lord’s servant must never quarrel; instead, he must be kind and gentle with everyone, He must be able to teach effectively and be patient with difficult people Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to know the truth.”

2 Tim. 2:24-25 (NIV/LB)

3. GENTLENESS _____

“Gentle speech breaks down rigid defenses.”

Proverbs 25:15b (Mes)

“A gentle word can get through to the hard-headed.”

(NCV)

“A wise, mature person is known for understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is.”

Proverbs 16:21 (TEV)

4. GENTLENESS _____

“As a man of God... pursue what God approves of: godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness”

1 Tim. 6:11 (GW)

“You should be known for the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God.”

1 Peter 3:4 (NLT)

5. GENTLENESS _____

“Husbands, love your wives and be gentle with them.”

Colossians 3:19 (NCV)

“Fathers, do not irritate and provoke your children to anger. Do not exasperate them to resentment, but rear them tenderly in the training and discipline and counsel of the Lord.”

Ephesians 6:4 (Amp)

6. GENTLENESS _____

“A woman of gentle grace will be respected.”

Proverbs 11:16 (Mes)

“Moses was a very meek and gentle man. In fact, he was more gentle than anyone else on the face of the earth!”

Numbers 12:3 (Amp)

7. GENTLENESS _____

“Believers should never speak evil of ANYONE, nor be quarrelsome. Instead they should be gentle and show courtesy to everyone.”

Titus 3:2 (GW)

*“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.
But do this with gentleness and respect.”*

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

8. GENTLENESS _____

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Matthew 11:28-29 (NIV)

“The fruit of the Spirit is . . . gentleness!”

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

WHO CAN I PRACTICE GENTLENESS WITH THIS WEEK?

WHY YOU NEED TO STAY HUNGRY

The Keys to a Blessed Life – Message 4

“God blesses those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

Matthew 5:6 (NIV)

RIGHTEOUSNESS IS. . .

• **A Relationship:** _____

“The Good News shows how God makes people right with himself.”

Romans 1:17 (NCV)

• **A Lifestyle:** _____

“. . . all who practice righteousness are God’s true children.”

1 John 2:29 (Mes)

“Righteousness is the road to life and path to immortality.”

Proverbs 12:28

THE GOOD NEWS: GOD’S PLAN TO MAKE ME RIGHT WITH HIMSELF

1. _____

“There is not a righteous person on earth who always does what is right and never sins.”

Ecclesiastes 7:20 (NIV)

“No one can ever be made right in God’s sight by doing what his law commands, because the more we know God’s law, the clearer it becomes that we can’t keep it.”

Romans 3:20 (NLT)

2. _____

“For all have sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet now God in his gracious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins. For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God’s anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us.”

Romans 3:23-25 (NLT)

“God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.”

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)

3. _____

“We are made right in God’s sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done.”

Romans 3:22 (NLT)

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for you believe with your heart, resulting in righteousness, and you confess with your mouth, resulting in salvation.”

Romans 10:9-10

HOW DO I STAY SPIRITUALLY HUNGRY?

1. _____

“...pray that you have the power to understand how wide, how long, how high, and how deep God’s love really is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. THEN you will be filled with the fullness of life AND the power that comes from God.”

Ephesians 3:18-19 (NLT)

2. _____

“The Lord says, “All you who are thirsty, come to me and drink! And to those of you who don’t have money to buy food, come and eat for free! Why do you spend your money on something that isn’t real food and doesn’t really satisfy you? Come to me and you’ll eat what is good; your soul will enjoy the stuff that really satisfies!”

Isaiah 55:1-2

3. _____

“The thing you should want most is God’s kingdom and doing what God wants. Then all these other things you need will be given to you.”

Matthew 6:33 (NCV)

4. _____

“You must crave the pure spiritual milk [of the Word] so that you can grow into the fullness of your salvation. Cry out for this nourishment like a baby cries for milk!”

1 Peter 2:2 (NLT)

5. _____

“Join the company of good men and women, who will keep you on the path of the righteous.”

Proverbs 2:20 (Mes/NLT)

YOUR MINISTRY OF MERCY

The Keys to a Blessed Life – Message 5

“God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

Matthew 5:7

WHY BE MERCIFUL TO OTHERS?

1. _____ **(Eph. 2:4-5)**

“Shouldn’t you have mercy on others, just as I had mercy on you?”

Matthew 18:33 (NLT)

2. _____ **(Micah 6:8)**

“I don’t want your sacrifices! I want you to be merciful!”

Hosea 6:6

3. _____

“You must show mercy to others, or God won’t show mercy to you . . . But the person who shows mercy can stand without fear at the judgment.”

James 2:13 (NCV)

4. _____

“If you want to be happy, be kind to those in need; it is a sin to despise anyone!”

Proverbs 14:21 (TEV)

“A merciful person helps himself, but a cruel person hurts himself.”

Proverbs 11:17 (GW)

HOW DO I BE MERCIFUL?

1. _____

“Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love.”

Ephesians 4:2 (LB)

*“The wisdom that comes from heaven is pure, peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others.
Wisdom is full of mercy...”*

James 3:17 (NLT)

2. _____

“Whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it.”

Proverbs 3:27 (TEV)

“[When you do] acts of mercy, show mercy with cheerfulness.”

Romans 12:8

3. _____

“Don’t get bitter or angry or use harsh words that hurt each other. Don’t yell at one another or curse or ever be rude. Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ.”

Ephesians 4:31-32 (CEV)

4. _____

“Love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because God is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

Luke 6:35-36 (NIV)

5. _____

(Paul) “Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief . . . I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for others who’d believe on him and receive eternal life.”

1 Timothy 1:13,16

“Show mercy to those who have doubts. Save others by snatching them from the fire. Show mercy to them, while being careful that you aren’t contaminated by their sins.”

Jude 1:22-23 (GW/NLT)

6. _____

“Show mercy to those who have doubts. Save others by snatching them from the fire. Show mercy to them, while being careful that you aren’t contaminated by their sins.” “Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to be his dinner guests, along with his fellow tax collectors and many other notorious sinners. The Pharisees were indignant. ‘Why does your teacher eat with such scum?’ they asked his disciples. When he heard this, Jesus replied, ‘Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do. Go learn the meaning of the Scripture, “I want you to be merciful; I don’t want your sacrifices!” For I have come to call sinners, not those who think they are already good enough.”

Matthew 9:10-13 (NLT)

7. _____

“Another time Jesus was walking through some grain fields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, so they began to pick some grain and eat it. Some Pharisees saw this and protested, ‘Your disciples are breaking God’s law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath!’ But Jesus said, ‘Haven’t you ever read what King David did when he and his soldiers were hungry? He went into the house of God, and they ate the holy bread reserved for the priests? . . . You would not have judged these innocent men if you knew the real meaning of the Scripture, “I want you to be merciful. I don’t want your sacrifices!” For I am the Lord of the Sabbath!’”

Matthew 12:1-8 (NLT)

GOD BLESSES A HEART OF INTEGRITY

The Keys to a Blessed Life – Message 6

“Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

“God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.”

Matthew 5:8 (NLT)

**INTEGRITY:
wholeness
authenticity
unmixed motivation**

BLESSINGS BROUGHT BY INTEGRITY

1. _____

“People with integrity have a firm footing, but those who follow crooked paths will slip and fall.”

Proverbs 10:9 (NLT)

“The integrity of the honest keeps them on track.”

Proverbs 11:3 (Mes)

2. _____

“A righteous person lives on the basis of his integrity. Blessed are his children after he is gone.”

Proverbs 20:7 (GW)

“If you pray to God and seek the favor of the Almighty, if you are pure and live with complete integrity, God will rise up and restore your happy home. And though you started with little, you will end with much.”

Job 8:5-7 (NLT)

3. _____

(God will say) “Well done! You are a good and trusted servant! Because you were faithful with small things, I’ll now put you in charge of much greater things. Come and share your Master’s happiness!”

Matthew 25:21 (NCV)

“Lord, who may stay in your sanctuary and live on your holy mountain? The one who WALKS WITH INTEGRITY - he speaks the truth from his heart. He refuses to slander others with his tongue, won’t listen to gossip, and will not cast a slur on his fellowman . . .(instead) he honors those who fear the Lord, and keeps his promises even when it hurts. He lends his money freely without charging interest and cannot be bribed by money. Whoever does these things will never be shaken!”

Psalm 15:1-5 (NIV/GW/TEV)

SOME WAYS TO DEVELOP INTEGRITY

1. _____

“People who promise things they never give are like clouds and wind that bring no rain.”

Proverbs 25:14 (TEV)

2. _____

“The wicked man borrows and never pays back . . .”

Psalm 37:21 (TEV)

“. . . the authorities are working for God . . . Pay what you owe them; pay your personal and property taxes . . .”

Romans 13:6-7 (TEV)

3. _____

“A gossip can’t be trusted with a secret, but someone of integrity won’t violate a confidence.”

Proverbs 11:13 (Mes)

4. _____

“Is it right for a person to cheat God? Of course not! Yet you are robbing me, says the Lord. How?’ you ask. By withholding your full tithe and offerings . . . Bring to me the full amount of your tithe to my House . . . Put me to the test and you’ll see that I will open the windows of heaven and pour out so much blessing on you that you won’t have enough room to receive it all!”

Malachi 3:8-10 (TEV)

5. _____

“Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.”

Colossians 3:23 (NLT)

6. _____

“We refuse to wear masks and play games. We don’t maneuver and manipulate behind the scenes. And we don’t twist God’s Word to suit ourselves. Rather, we keep everything we do and say out in the open . . .”

2 Corinthians 4:2 (Mes)

“How can I keep my way pure? By living according to your Word.”

Psalms 119:9 (NIV)

HOW TO RECONCILE A RELATIONSHIP

The Keys to a Blessed Life – Message 7

“God blesses those who are peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.”

Matthew 5:9 (NLT)

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT PEACEMAKING

DAMAGE CAUSED BY UNRESOLVED CONFLICT

“Those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness.”

James 3:18 (NLT)

HOW TO BE A PEACEMAKER

1. _____

“If you’re standing before the altar in the Temple, giving an offering to God, and you suddenly remember someone has something against you, leave your offering there beside the altar. Go at once and first be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your gift to God.”

Matthew 5:23-24 (NLT)

2. _____

“If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask Him, and He will gladly tell you . . .”

James 1:5 (LB)

3. _____

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? They are caused by selfish desires that are continually at war inside you.”

James 4:1

“Pride only leads to arguments . . .”

Proverbs 13:10 (NCV)

“Why do you notice the little piece of dust in your friend’s eye, but you don’t notice the big piece of wood in your own eye? . . . First, take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly to take the dust out of your friend’s eye.”

Matthew 7:3,5 (NCV)

4. _____

“... be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.”

James 1:19 (NLT)

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 2:4-5 (NIV)

“... we must bear the ‘burden’ of being considerate of the doubts and fears of others...”

Romans 15:2 (LB)

5. _____

“Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”

Proverbs 12:18 (NIV)

“Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed . . .”

Ephesians 4:29 (TEV)

6. _____

“You must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.”

Colossians 3:8 (NIV)

7. _____

Reconciliation = reestablish the relationship

Resolution = resolve every issue

“God has restored our relationship with him through Christ, and has given us this ministry of restoring relationships. God was in Christ restoring his relationship with humanity. He didn’t hold people’s faults against them, and he has given us this message of restored relationships to tell others. We are Christ’s representatives . . . We beg you on behalf of Christ to become reunited with God.”

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (GW)

HANDLING OPPOSITION TO YOUR FAITH

The Keys to a Blessed Life – Message 8

“Anyone who belongs to Christ Jesus and wants to live right WILL have trouble from others.”

2 Timothy 3:12 (CEV)

WHAT TO REMEMBER

1. _____

JESUS: “When the world hates you, remember it hated me first. The world would love you IF you belonged to it, but you don’t. I chose you out of the world. That’s why the world will hate you. No servant is ever greater than his master. So since they persecuted me they will persecute you too.”

John 15:18-20

“If you’re abused because of Christ, count yourself fortunate. It’s the Spirit of God and his glory in you that brought you to the notice of others.”

1 Peter 4:14 (Mes)

2. _____

“These troubles will prove that your faith is genuine. Just as gold is purified by fire and heat, so your faith, which is far more precious than gold, must also be purified by fire so it may endure. Then you’ll receive praise and glory and honor on the Day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.”

1 Peter 1:7

3. _____

“God BLESSES those who are persecuted because they live for God: the Kingdom of Heaven will be theirs! You will be blessed WHEN people insult you, and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matthew 5:10-12

WHAT TO DO

1. _____

“Dear friends, don’t be surprised or shocked when you go through painful trials that are like walking through fire, as though something unusual is happening to you.”

1 Peter 4:12 (CEV/TEV)

2. _____

“If you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it, so don’t be afraid and don’t worry! Instead, worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.”

1 Peter 3:14-15 (NLT)

3. _____

“It is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Instead, thank God for the privilege of being called by his name!”

1 Peter 4:16 (NLT)

“Take a firm stand against Satan and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are.”

1 Peter 5:9 (NLT)

“Remember, it is better to suffer for doing God’s will than to suffer for doing evil.”

1 Peter 3:17

4. _____

“We’re not fighting against human beings, but against wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly realm . . .”

Ephesians 6:12 (TEV)

“Stay away from stupid and senseless arguments. These only lead to trouble. God’s servants must never quarrel. (Instead) be kind to everyone . . . and be patient. Be humble when you correct people who oppose you . . . they’ve been trapped by the devil, and he makes them obey him, but God may help them escape.”

2 Timothy 2:23-26 (CEV)

5. _____

“Never pay back evil with more evil . . . If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. And never avenge yourself. Leave that to God, who has said, ‘I’ll be the judge and I’ll take care of it.’”

Romans 12:17-19

“Those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.”

1 Peter 4:19 (NIV)

6.

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Romans 12:21 (ESV)

Jesus: “Love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. BLESS those who curse you. PRAY for those who hurt you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn the other cheek.”

Luke 6:27b-29a (NLT)