

Beatitudes Message Notes, [Tom Vander Well](#)

Basic Outline is used with permission from [The Nine-Fold Path of Jesus](#) by [Mark Scandrette](#).

Amazon Link to [The Nine-Fold Path of Jesus](#)

FWIW: [My podcast interview with Mark Scandrette](#)

Beatitudes (Matt 5:3-12) are the "Preamble" to the Sermon on the Mount

Beatitudes are "A different way to be human." We *must* embrace living and loving opposite of what the world believes and lives.

David was an example of the Way of Jesus in his episode with Saul in 1 Samuel 23.

Blessed are the poor in *spirit*: The Way of Trust

Own Your Poverty, Live with Open Hands (Phil 4:19)

There are many types of poverty? Where do you have need? Me? Optimism

The world celebrates excess (more is better); God celebrates contentment & trust.

David is embracing his impoverished circumstances and placing his trust in God to fulfill his destiny, not take it into his own hands.

Blessed are those who mourn: The Way of Lament

Face your pain, Wait for comfort (Lam 3:19-24)

The valley of the shadow of death is the road to dwelling in the house of the Lord forever.

The world celebrates happiness; God celebrates maturity, wholeness, completeness

David is embracing his lament, turning them into poetic songs, and seeking the comfort of God's mercy rather than his personal revenge. (Psalms 57 & 142)

Blessed are the meek: The Way of Humility

See Your True Self, Bow to the Dignity of All (Matt 5:44 Love enemies)

The Shack: "I'm especially fond of him/her"

The world celebrates power; God celebrates loving submission

David has the power to assassinate the King, but he humbly chooses not to use that power. He sees Saul as "God's anointed."

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: The Way of Justice

Ache for Change; Step into Action (Rom 12:19 – vengeance is mine; I will repay)

The world celebrates vengeance of the strong; God celebrates justice for the weak

David willingly chooses not to be a judge, jury, and executioner, deferring justice and vengeance on Saul to God.

Blessed are the merciful: The Way of Compassion

Stop Judging, Look with Love (Phil 2:3-4 – consider others more important)

The world celebrates selfishness; God celebrates sincere consideration

David mercifully treats Saul as he would like to be treated by Saul.

Blessed are the pure in heart: The Way of Right Motive

Choose Goodness, Show the Real You (Prov 16:2 all ways seem pure, motives weighed)

The world celebrates appearances; God celebrates authenticity

David is more concerned with the condition of his heart than the condition of his circumstances.

Blessed are the peacemakers: The Way of Peacemaking

Make Peace, Reach Past Differences (Rom 12:18 as it depends on you live at peace)

The world celebrates domination; God celebrates peace

David, having cut off a piece of King Saul's robe as the monarch was indisposed, confronts Saul in an effort to peacefully resolve their conflict.

Blessed are those persecuted because of righteousness – The Way of Surrender

Embrace Suffering; Keep Doing Good (James 1:2-3)

Why do you think drug overdoses in America are skyrocketing?

The world celebrates escaping pain; God celebrates faith fueled perseverance

David's entire life has become that of unjust persecution because God has blessed him and not Saul. Still, David humbly surrenders to God's will and God's timing for the right time to lift him to the position and power that has been prophesied.

Blessed are you when others insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me – The Way of Radical Love

Have Hope, Live Fearlessly (Rom 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil w/good)

The world celebrates being king of the hill; God celebrates being content) 1 Thess 4:11-12

At the end of today's episode, Saul goes back to his palace, power, and position while David retreats back into his cave where he picks up his lyre and pens the lyrics of Psalm 57 in which he laments living among "lions, ravenous beasts, and men whose teeth are sharp spears"

(remember Saul twice tried to kill David with his spear), but then in the very next line writes:

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;

let your glory be over all the earth.

1. Sermon on the Mount challenge: Connect Jesus' teaching each week back to the corresponding beatitude(s).
2. Discipleship Challenge: Memorize Matthew 5:3-12
 1. Why memorize?
 2. Memorization basic: repetition, repetition, repetition
 3. Visual reminders
 4. Auditory repetition
 5. The hand-to-brain connection