

# Lesson 7

Back-Door Blessings | [Matthew 5:1-12](#)

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## START MEETING

- Someone said that the Beatitudes are “beautiful attitudes?” Are they?
- Which is your ‘favourite’ Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12? How is it more than a “beautiful attitude” for you?

## READ AND DISCUSS BIBLE

1. On what grounds may we conclude that Matthew’s Gospel is a first-century Curriculum of Discipleship and that it is valid for every generation of disciples until the end of the age? Hint: Matthew 28:18-20. What implications do you draw from this?
2. Some of the Beatitudes are virtues. But how are the Beatitudes essentially different from virtues? Please read Matthew 5:3-5 and Galatians 5:22-23 before you answer.
3. Why is the word “for” found in each Beatitude? How is this little word an essential key for interpreting the Beatitudes?
4. Some say that the Beatitudes are conditions for salvation. Others say that they are not conditions for salvation but promises of salvation. What difference does it make? What’s your opinion?
5. The fifth Beatitude reads, *Blessed are the merciful for they shall be shown mercy* (Matthew 5:7). Can we earn or merit God’s mercy by showing mercy to others? Show biblical support for your answers. You might consider Deuteronomy 4:31; Matthew 6:14-15; 18:33; Luke 6:36; and Romans 11:22.
6. What do the Beatitudes tell us about the kingdom of God that has dawned in the ministry of Jesus? In other words, how would you define the kingdom of God in light of the Beatitudes?

## MATTHEW: THE DISCIPLEMAKER MANUAL

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Sermon Series  
Bible Study

## PASSAGE FOCUS

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The Beatitudes set the stage for the entire ministry of Jesus. They reflect the predicaments of ordinary people who are ‘crash-landing’ into the kingdom and being transformed by friendship with Jesus.

## STUDY GUIDE

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### LISTEN

Listen to this passage’s sermon before you begin the study. If you missed it, you can watch the recording on the CPC Website or Youtube Channel.

### REFLECT

Take some time to read through the passage and reflect on the questions.

### SHARE

Answer the questions and share with your Life Group.

## CLOSE MEETING

1.

- Share with your group how you have experienced one or more of the Beatitudes, both the top line (a situation in life) and the bottom line (some sort of blessing)?
- Prayerfully and silently meditate on the sixth Beatitude: *Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God* (Matthew 5:8). Please share your impressions and responses. End with a prayer, silent, spoken, or written.
- *Blessed are those who mourn*. What makes you cry? When was the last time you cried? Why do we feel better after crying? If your answers too personal to share, just tell them to Jesus.
- Take home exercise: Who are the "blessed" in Singapore and why? As a spiritual exercise, identify two or three specific categories of 'less fortunate' people in Singapore today. Now compose a Beatitude (top line and bottom line) for each category. Try to imagine what Jesus would say to such persons in their specific situations. For example:

*Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
for they shall be \_\_\_\_\_.*