

Blessing the Underdog! **Matthew 5:1-12**

Intro: The OT ends with a curse (Mal. 4:6) and begins with Jesus' teaching of blessing. The contrast could not be more evident. *Makarios* is the NT word translated "blessed." It also means fortunate, happy. Jesus' teaching concerning being "blessed" in this context is directed toward internal **change**, not external joys or possessions. His first use of *makarios* addresses *the spirit of a man*. Jesus taught that we are blessed by the demonstration of a **changed character** not in the multitudes of possessions.

- I. The context for Jesus teaching on *makarios*.**
 - A. In the world: possessions equal emptiness (Luke 12:15; Eccl. 5:13)
 - B. In the world: you will never find happiness...never! (I John 2:15-17)
 - C. In the OT: there is an intro to inward change & blessing (Jeremiah 31:33)

- II. The importance of Jesus teaching on *makarios*** (taken from J. MacArthur)
 - A. Because it shows the necessity of the new birth
 - B. It clearly point to Jesus Christ and [is a great] insight into his mind.
 - C. It is the only way of happiness for Christians
 - D. It's the best means of evangelism
 - E. It pleases God

- III. Makarios is...**
 - A. Being an underdog in spirit
 - B. Being paradoxically sad!
 - C. Being meek
 - D. Being hungry
 - E. Being merciful
 - F. Being holy
 - G. Being peacemakers
 - H. Being harassed

- IV. Makarios points us in the direction of change, change of our heart and change in our spirit.**