



CELL GROUP MATERIAL

8 MAR 2026

8 MAR SERMON

# What makes Blessed People?

PASTOR BOBBY MATHEW

## Ice Breaker

**Question:** Share about a time when you witnessed someone respond to a difficult situation with unexpected grace or kindness. How did that impact you?

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## Key Scripture

### 1 Peter 3:8-12

*"Finally all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another, love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous, not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you are called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. For he who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good. Let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayers. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."*

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## Main Takeaways from the Sermon

### 1. Blessed People Have Right Attitudes

- One-minded, compassionate, loving, tender-hearted, humble
- It starts with the heart, not just outward behavior
- God looks at the heart while people look at the outward

### 2. Blessed People Have Right Actions

- They choose not to retaliate when insulted or wronged
- They answer evil with blessing
- They trust God to vindicate rather than fighting for their own reputation

### 3. Blessed People Have Right Words

- They guard their tongue from evil and deceitful speech
- They speak life, not death
- They declare God's blessing over situations and circumstances

### 4. Blessed People Have Right Direction

- They intentionally turn away from evil and do good
- They pursue peace actively
- They don't make excuses but choose to repent and change

## **5. Blessed People Have Right Relationship with God**

- They know God sees them and hears them
- They live under the eyes of the Lord
- Being blessed is more than possessions—it's knowing God is with you

## **Discussion Questions**

### **On Right Attitudes:**

1. Which of the five attitudes mentioned (one-minded, compassionate, loving, tender-hearted, humble) do you find most challenging? Why?
2. The sermon emphasized that God looks at the heart. What does it mean practically to cultivate a soft heart toward God in your daily life?
3. How can we as a group help each other maintain unity and compassion, especially when we disagree?

### **On Right Actions:**

4. Pastor shared a testimony about someone spreading false accusations against him. Have you experienced a situation where you were tempted to retaliate? How did you respond?
5. What does it look like practically to "answer evil with blessing" in your workplace, school, or family?
6. The sermon mentioned that "God has a way of judging and dealing with situations." How does trusting God to vindicate us change the way we respond to injustice?

### **On Right Words:**

7. The sermon stated: "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks." What practices help you fill your heart with good things so that good words flow out?
8. Share an example of when someone's words brought healing or life to you. How can you be more intentional about speaking life over others?
9. What are some "corrupt speech" patterns we need to shut the door on? (Examples: gossip, complaining, cursing situations, speaking hopelessness)

### **On Right Direction:**

10. The sermon emphasized that blessed people don't drift—they are intentional. What does it mean to "pursue peace" in a relationship that has been conflictual?
11. Is there an area in your life where God is calling you to "turn away from evil and do good"? What would repentance look like in that situation?

### **On Right Relationship with God:**

12. How does knowing "the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous" change the way you face difficult circumstances?
  13. The sermon used the image of a child holding a parent's hand in chaos. How does this picture help you understand what it means to walk with God through turbulent times?
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## **Personal Reflection**

Take a few moments of silence for each person to reflect:

- **Heart Check:** Ask God to reveal any areas where your heart has become hard, proud, angry, or bitter. Pray: "Create in me a clean heart, O God."
  - **Word Check:** Have your words this past week brought life or death? Blessing or cursing?
  - **Direction Check:** Is there any area where you're drifting instead of being intentional about following God?
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## **Practical Application**

### **This Week's Challenge:**

Choose **ONE** of the following to practice this week:

1. **Right Attitude Challenge:** Identify one person you struggle with and pray daily for God to give you compassion for them. Ask God to help you see their needs rather than just their offenses.
2. **Right Action Challenge:** If someone wrongs you this week, intentionally choose to bless them instead of retaliating. This could be through prayer, a kind word, or a practical act of service.
3. **Right Words Challenge:**
  - Start each morning by speaking words of worship and declaring God's blessing over your day
  - Catch yourself before speaking negatively about a situation and choose to speak what God says instead

- Speak a prophetic blessing over someone who is going through difficulty
- 4. **Right Direction Challenge:** Identify one area where you need to "turn away from evil and do good." Make a concrete plan to pursue peace in a broken relationship or change a behavior pattern.
- 5. **Right Relationship Challenge:** Set aside time each day this week to simply be in God's presence, reminding yourself that His eyes are upon you and His ears are open to your prayers.

### **Accountability:**

- Share with the group which challenge you're committing to
  - Exchange contact information with at least one person to check in mid-week
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## **Declaration of Blessing (Based on the sermon closing)**

Read this together as a group:

*"God, Your Word declares that we are called to inherit a blessing. Today I receive blessing and I declare blessing over my life. I declare blessing over every situation in my life.*

*I declare that the Lord blesses me and He keeps me. Lord, You make Your face shine upon me. God, You lift up Your countenance upon me and You give me peace.*

*I declare that I'm a tree planted by the rivers of water. I bring forth fruit in season. My life is rooted in Jesus Christ and whatever I do under His guidance shall prosper.*

*I declare that the Lord heals all my disease. He renews my strength. My body is strengthened. It's restored. It's sustained by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*I declare that I prosper. That I am in good health just as my soul prospers.*

*I declare that God meets all my needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. My finances, my work, and the labor of my hands are under the blessing of the Lord.*

*I declare the peace of God. It guards my heart and my mind in Christ Jesus. My home, my relationship, my decisions, they are covered by the peace of God.*

*I declare the eyes of the Lord are continuously over my life. And I declare that your ears, God, are open to my prayers. God, you see me. God, you hear me. And God, you walk with me.*

*Therefore here today I speak blessing. I speak blessing over my life. Over my family. Over my work and school. Over my health. Over my finances. And over every circumstance in my life.*

*I choose to bless and not curse. I choose to walk in the way of the Lord. And I choose to live as one who has inherited the blessing."*

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## **Closing Prayer**

- Pray for each person's specific challenges and commitments
  - Pray for soft hearts toward God and others
  - Pray for the power to speak life and blessing
  - Thank God that His eyes are upon each group member
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**Leader's Note:** Create space for vulnerability and honesty. Some people may need to confess areas where they've been retaliating, speaking negatively, or harboring bitterness. Maintain confidentiality and offer grace while also encouraging genuine repentance and change.

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