



THE BIG IDEA

The beatitudes aren't a system to be capitalized on. They are a window into what is already true.

WHY DO WE NEED TO KNOW IT?

Human nature is naturally governed by the ego's need to preserve the self. If we approach our faith through our ego, we miss the point of the Gospel.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

Examine our true desires. Take a personal inventory of what we actually hunger and thirst for. Do we hunger and thirst for God, or do we hunger and thirst for security?

START HERE

During Epiphany, we are exploring different themes in the Gospel of Matthew account of the beatitudes. We will be covering a number of topics, and we want our entire church to be a part of the conversation. If you missed the message on Sunday, you can catch up [here](#).

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Matthew 5:3-4

Blessed are the meek,

for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

for they will be filled.

Hungry and Thirsty

Richard Rohr says, "The ego, is by its very definition, conservative. I don't mean that in political terms. The nature of the ego, in all cultures, in all times and places, is to secure itself."

I love and hate the beatitudes. I love them because they illuminate the true nature of Jesus' agenda. I hate them because they illuminate the true nature of Jesus' agenda.

Let me clarify. In all of the records of Jesus' teaching in the Gospels, at no other place do we see all the way to the core of what Jesus was bringing to earth than in the beatitudes. Jesus often spoke in cryptic parables, but in the beatitudes,

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Book: *Things Hidden in Scripture* by Richard Rohr
- Forefront blog "Things That Are Shaping Us" series - [READ](#)
- Audio Book: *Sermon on the Mount* - [LISTEN](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 30

- Weekend Hangout at Koelner Bierhalle

February 2

- Baptism Celebration at Manhattan Church of Christ
forefrontnyc.com/baptism

February 6-7

- Marriage Retreat
forefrontnyc.com/marriageretreat

he speaks clearly, right to the heart of his overarching message. I love that.

What comes along with that, is the revelation of just how far off humanity has drifted from the point of everything. That's personally challenging. I hate that.

The way many people throughout history have approached the beatitudes (and the rest of scripture) is as a list of instructions to ensure a life of blessing. We read "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied" and we zero in on the words "blessed" and "satisfied." Intuitively, the ego tells us, "I want to be blessed. I believe in Jesus. I need to be righteous." Or, we read "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth" and we do the same thing. We want to inherit the earth, so we try to be meek.

We have it backwards.

Take a look at the passages from the message in Luke 18. Talk about the difference between the two men that Jesus encounters. How did the rich man misinterpret God's calling on his life? Was he hungering for righteousness, really? Or was he hungering for security? What's the difference?

Why was the beggar able to follow Jesus, while the rich man walked away sad?

There are two greek words that are translated into the word "Blessed."

Eulogeo- From the root "Logos" which means "the word" and where we get Eulogy. To call down blessing on someone, or to speak well about someone.

The other is...

Markarios- This is a term that recognizes an existing state of favor or good fortune, which is already present.

The word we find in the beatitudes is Markarios.

How does reading the beatitudes as a declaration of something that is already true change your approach to them?

How does it change your desires?

How have you experienced hungering for security? Did you think you were hungering for God?
Have you spent your christian life more as a rich man, or as a beggar?

BENEDICTION

In closing, pray this prayer together, from Seeking God's Face,

**Everlasting God, through Christ's resurrection you guarantee life restored,
sharing your glory, victory, and righteousness. Inject my everyday living with
that bright hope, lifting my heart, giving fresh legs for weary days, and
steading a sometimes woozy and wobbly faith.**

In Jesus' name, amen.