

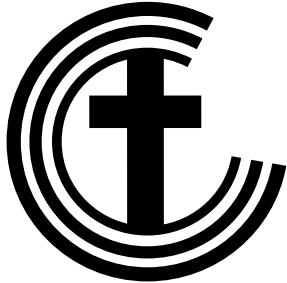
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Passage: Matthew 5:1-16

Overview: This passage, commonly referred to as the Beatitudes, is part of the Sermon on the Mount, presenting key teachings of Jesus regarding the characteristics and attitudes of those who belong to the Kingdom of God. Jesus outlines behaviors and blessings that are counter-cultural and spiritually significant because they are characteristics that are only possible by the power and equipping of the Holy Spirit.

Goal: To gain a deeper understanding of the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-16, examining the context, observing key elements, interpreting the meaning, and applying the principles to daily life.

Matthew 5:1-16: Using the Inductive Bible Study Method



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Step 1: Prayer

Begin with a prayer, asking for God's guidance and the Holy Spirit to provide insight and understanding.

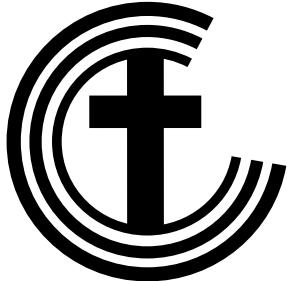
Step 2: Observation

-Read Matthew 5:1-16 slowly and carefully. Note any repeated phrases, contrasting ideas, or specific blessings paired with behaviors.

Questions to guide observation:

1. Who is speaking, and who is the audience?
2. Where does this event take place?
3. What are the specific qualities God blesses?
4. What blessings or rewards are associated with these qualities?
5. Are there any keywords or phrases that are repeated or emphasized?

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Cross-References:

Matthew 4:25: Context about the multitudes that followed Jesus.

Deuteronomy 18:15-19: Prophecy of a prophet like Moses.

Daniel 7:13-14: Expectations about the coming Messiah.

Isaiah 61:1-3: Represents Jesus' mission and parallels to the Beatitudes.

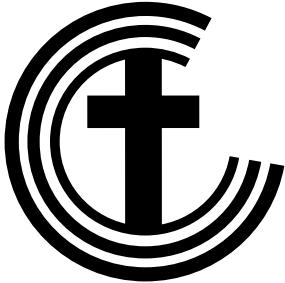
Step 3: Interpretation

To interpret the text, consider the cultural, historical, and literary context.

Questions to guide interpretation:

1. What is the main message Jesus is conveying in these verses?

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2. How do these teachings relate to the overall message of the Kingdom of God?
3. What is the significance of the cultural and historical context of the audience?
4. Why are the qualities listed by Jesus important for a disciple?

Cross-References:

James 2:5: Parallels teaching about the poor being rich in faith.

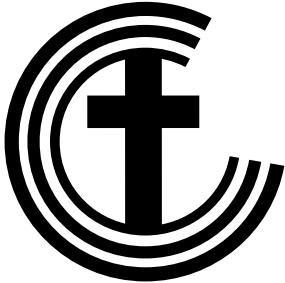
Romans 12:15: Relevant to the mourning and comforting.

Psalm 37:11: The meek inheriting the earth.

John 4:14: Thirsting for righteousness and being filled by Jesus.

Step 4: Correlating

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Compare the Beatitudes with other parts of Scripture to see how they align and contrast.

Questions to guide correlation:

1. How do these behaviors and blessings compare with other biblical teachings?
2. What Old Testament principles or prophecies align with Jesus' teachings in Matthew 5:1-16?
3. How do New Testament writers, like Paul and James, expand on these teachings?

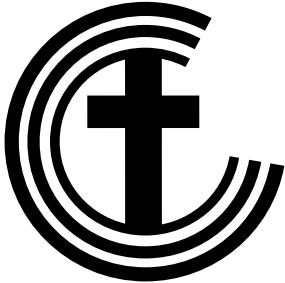
Cross-References:

Exodus 19:3-6: Similarities in the mountain scene with Moses.

James 1:22-25: Living out the teachings and being doers of the word.

Galatians 5:22-23: Fruit of the Spirit correlating with the Beatitudes.

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1 Peter 2:9: Believers as a royal priesthood, linking to being light and salt.

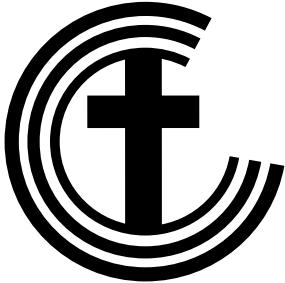
Step 5: Application

Applying the teachings of the Beatitudes to personal life and community fellowship.

Questions to guide application:

1. How does the Holy Spirit cultivate the attributes Jesus describes in the Beatitudes in your daily life?
2. How have you seen the Holy Spirit applied these qualities to your life before?
3. How does understanding the Holy Spirit's role change your approach to personal growth and sanctification?
4. How can you share these principles within your church or community to encourage spiritual growth?

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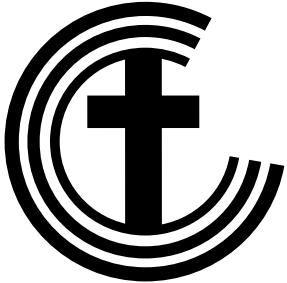
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Action Points:

1. Identify which Beatitude you struggle with most and pray for the Holy Spirit's transformative power in that area.
2. Commit to a daily time of reading and meditating on God's Word to allow the Holy Spirit to work in your life.
3. Journal your experiences of how God helps you to live out these Beatitudes.
4. Engage in a small group study or discussion on the Beatitudes to learn and grow together.

Step 6: Discussion and Reflection

Share insights from your study with a small group or a partner. Reflect on the transformative impact of embracing the Beatitudes.



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Questions to guide reflection:

1. How has your understanding of the Beatitudes changed after this study?
2. In what ways do you see the Beatitudes being lived out in your church community?
3. What obstacles do you face in applying these teachings, and how can the Holy Spirit empower you to overcome them?

Summary

By using the Inductive Bible Study Method, you have embarked on a journey to uncover the depths of Jesus's teachings in Matthew 5:1-16. This study not only enhances your personal relationship with God but equips you as a disciple to live out the Kingdom principles and share them with those around you. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide and fill you as you walk in the ways of the Beatitudes.

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