



## **Mustard Seed Children's Summary for September 21, 2008**

**Released on Wednesday, September 17, 2008**

### **"Finding True Happiness"**

**BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 5:1 – 7:28

**DEVOTIONAL READING:** Numbers 6:22-27

#### **MEMORY VERSE:**

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16)

#### **SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT:** (Matthew 5:1-16)

**1** And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

**2** And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

**3** Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**4** Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

**5** Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

**6** Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

**7** Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

**8** Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

**9** Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

**10** Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**11** Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

**12** Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

**13** Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

**14** Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

**15** Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

**16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

**OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Encourage students to please Jesus by living as the eight Beatitudes tell us.

**TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. Jesus tells us eight different ways we can please Him.
2. God's children shine in a dark world when they do what is right.

**PLANNING LESSON AIDS:**

For Telling the Lesson, you will need a picture of Jesus seated on a hillside, teaching. Print the numbers 1 through 8 on separate half sheets of different colored art paper.

For Helping to Remember, each student will need a white paper plate, scissors (blunt tip), crayons, paste, and a yellow sun drawn 1 inch smaller than the bottom of the plate. You will also need a copy of the word search for each student.

**BEGINNING THE LESSON:**

10 year old Ben and his mother were sitting on a bench at the mall, waiting for Ben's father.

Many people were shopping that day. Along came a girl and her mother. The girl was about Ben's age. She was letting her mother and everyone else know that she was not happy. "Well, I *want* it. Why are you saying no? You never get me anything! Coming to the mall with you is no fun!"

"Oh, my," Ben's mother said. A moment later two boys came dodging in and out among the shoppers. They bumped into one lady and nearly knocked her over. "Oh, my," Ben's mother said again.

Ben kept watching people. Next came a father and his son and daughter. As they went by, Ben heard the boy say, "Please could we have some ice cream before we go home?"

This time Ben's mother smiled. She said to Ben, "Sometimes you can tell what kind of boy or girl a child is by the things he or she does."

Ben nodded. He knew just what she meant. He had been watching too.

But then Mom said, "That boy must have parents who have taught him well. I like to see that."

Jesus once told people what He likes to see when He looks at the mothers and fathers and boys and girls who belong to Him. Let us open the Bible and find out what He said.

**TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:**

Consider the following as you prepare your lesson for your students: If this is your students' first exposure to the Beatitudes, focus your lesson on only a few to keep them from being overwhelmed. A beatitude is a declaration of blessedness. A summary of the Beatitudes (description/reward) is given in the Conclusion. For Telling the Lesson below, there are eight beatitudes and two metaphors (salt and light) used.

## **Teaching the Disciples (Matthew 5:1-2)**

Again people were crowding around to hear Jesus teach. They always wanted to know what He would talk about next. This time He walked up the mountainside until He found a good place for talking to so many people, and there He sat down. (Show Jesus teaching.)

The people who had come to listen gathered around in front of Him. Maybe some sat on the hillside too. Maybe some just stood, but they all listened as He began to talk.

So what did Jesus talk about that day? If you had been sitting on that hill listening, you would have heard Him talk about eight different things God wants to see. Those eight things are listed for you here.

## **The Blessed Ones (Matthew 5:3-12)**

(Display number 1.) First, He wants to see people who know they need Him. You see, when people know they can never please the Lord the way they are, that is a good thing. Then they will ask Jesus to forgive them, and He will. He will put them in His family. Then they will ask, and He will help them please Him by the things they do. People like that are people who are truly blessed.

(Display number 2.) Jesus went on to say that the fathers and mothers and boys and girls who are sad and cry about the wrong things they have done have been blessed too. The blessing is that Jesus died for them. And if they just ask Him to forgive them, they do not need to worry about being judged for their sins anymore. Jesus has taken them away. These that mourn will be comforted.

(Display number 3.) People who are gentle and kind to others instead of just grabbing good things for themselves have been blessed by God. Jesus said that someday they will have "the world"—all they could ever need or want. The meek will inherit the earth.

(Display number 4.) Jesus kept on teaching. He said, "God blesses those who want to please Him so much that they 'hunger and thirst' for doing right; He fills them up."

You see, when God forgives our sins, He gives us Jesus' goodness at the same time. And what very special news that is! Now we can do what is right because Jesus is living within us to make us strong.

(Display number 5.) Next He talked about the fathers and mothers and boys and girls who help people when they need help. He called that being merciful. He said those helpers are blessed, for then others will be merciful to them too.

(Display number 6.) Truly blessed people, Jesus said next, are the ones who have clean hearts. And we know the only way to get a clean heart is to believe in Jesus; only He can wash the sin out of your heart. He does that for all the people who believe He died for them. And that is certainly good news for the pure in heart shall see God.

(Display number 7.) God is pleased when He sees His people being peacemakers too. "Peace" means when there is no fighting, no arguing. So a boy or a girl who is a peacemaker is someone who does not fight with others. A peacemaker even helps others be friends. We say he "makes peace." The truth is peacemakers are acting the way God acts, for God Himself is a peacemaker. Those who make peace shall be called children of God.

(Display number 8.) But then Jesus said something that sounds really strange. He said that if someone does mean, cruel things to you (or persecute you) because you believe in Him, you can have joy. You are blessed because this shows you belong to God's heavenly kingdom, and He will watch over you.

## **The Role of the Righteous (Matthew 5:13-16)**

So there they are, the eight things Jesus wants to see in us. These things are important because Christians are to help others see how good God is. Listen to what Jesus said next: "You are like light for other people in the world."

We shine God's light when we do what is right, and that helps people think good things about our heavenly Father. Jesus said so. Do you remember Ben's mother from the beginning of our lesson? She thought the one boy must have good parents because she saw him acting nicely.

Jesus explained to His disciples that those who follow Him have the responsibility and the privilege of being salt and light in the midst of a lost and dark world. As salt, we bring the flavor of righteousness to the world. As light, we shine the truth of salvation in Christ so that others may turn to Him in faith. The believer is to carry out good works and make it clear that those works are done by the power of God so that God receives glory and honor.

### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE:**

What does Jesus see as He looks at our class? We know the kind of boys and girls He likes to see: boys and girls who know they need His help and who want it; boys and girls who are sorry for their sins and ask Jesus to forgive them so that they can have a clean heart; boys and girls who are gentle and kind; boys and girls who want to do what is right; boys and girls who are glad they belong to Jesus.

Is it easy to be that kind of boy or that kind of girl? No, it is not easy. That is why we need Jesus to make us that way. Shall we ask Him right now to do that? (Teacher, lead in prayer.)

### **HELPING TO REMEMBER:**

Have the children color the inside edges of their plates black. Then they will print on their suns "Let us shine for Jesus," cut them out, and paste them in the center of the plates.

Have each student complete the word search, with key words from this week's lesson.

### **EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:**

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16)

Jesus said His people are like light in the world and should let their light shine. Light shines love and the truth of salvation in Christ. Why? So that others can turn to Christ in faith. We serve as lights on the narrow path. As Jesus pointed out, light cannot be hidden. Therefore, our light shining for others to see will be vital in reaching the lost for Christ. So may we shine the "light of the glorious gospel of Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:4) today and every day. The world needs the hope only Christ can give. Will you let your light shine?

### **CONCLUSION:**

Great blessing lies ahead for believers who use gentleness in dealing with others. Jesus said on another occasion that He Himself is "meek and lowly in heart" (Matt. 11:29). He is our model.

Blessed are those whose righteousness is not their own but is the righteousness of Christ. Blessed is he who truly wants to live rightly. His desire will be satisfied because that is what God desires too. Blessed are the people who not only treat others with gentleness but also show others mercy, doing good for them when they do not deserve it. The merciful will find they receive the same sort of treatment themselves.

God is pleased when He sees pureness of heart, something that can be realized only through Christ. The blessing promised all those who are pure in heart because they are in Him is that they will see God. Blessed too are those who not only are not contentious themselves but help bring peace between others as well. They will be called the children of God in the sense that they are like their Father, who Himself is a peacemaker.

And finally, even when one's allegiance to Jesus brings opposition, the outcome is blessed. The persecuted one is blessed with citizenship in the kingdom of heaven, and thus their Father watches carefully what happens to them on earth.

Such characteristics cannot be developed by our own efforts. But we can go to the One who possesses them all and ask Him to work these virtues in us. The following is a summary of the eight beatitudes and the reward associated with each:

### **THE EIGHT BEATITUDES (Matthew 5:3-10)**

<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Reward</u></b>
(1) Being poor in spirit (humble)	Kingdom of Heaven
(2) Mourning (grief)	Comfort
(3) Meekness (lowly)	Inherit the earth
(4) Seeking righteousness	Full satisfaction
(5) Showing mercy	Mercy
(6) Purity of heart	Shall see God
(7) Peacemakers	Children of God
(8) Persecuted for righteousness	Kingdom of Heaven

### **PRAYER:**

Dear God, thank You for teaching us how to please You. Help us to shine as light and to bring glory to Your name. In Jesus' name, amen.

### **ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:**

Next week's lesson is "Serving Others" from Matthew 20:17-28 and gives us an outstanding model in servanthood. Read Matthew 20:1-28 and Mark 10:35-45.

### **Lesson Summarized by:**

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**WORD SEARCH**  
**Finding True Happiness**  
(Matthew 5:1-16)

**Find each of the following words.**

MERCIFUL  
HEAVEN  
PEACEMAKERS  
KINGDOM

MEEK  
REWARD  
RIGHTEOUSNESS  
LIGHT

SHINE  
BLESSED  
EARTH  
DISCIPLES

REJOICE  
GLORIFY  
SALT  
HAPPINESS

C H F A I T S H E N R E L P S E U E T D O E M H M  
S D N S E D E R N K R L H O E L D R E S S H I A E  
A N E V A E H R E T E C E Y N D R D L R G L E P M  
M A I C G O R N N K S D R O I E E M R I A L F P E  
U S M H I N S N M S A V A P H A T E S A G R O I T  
R C N E R O M E D E E M R S S S I R H I W H S N M  
A M H A C E J I E H M I E I M M L C G M A E T E S  
I M E S I G L E O E E S R C R K P I E K H E R S Y  
O K I N G D O M R S T V R E A B C F E A E D R S O  
H E T A K A C I T R G P R M E E A U N B L T L C S  
E G K H B L E S S E D T E O K L P L R P W I K E S  
G N I T U L P A L M R E S E L P I C S I D A L T L  
I R E R E R H A V L K L G M K R F S M T O E I S S  
K F T A E D T L A S O S G L O R I F Y H R L I A H  
I K E E I A R L R O I R I G H T E O U S N E S S J  
E C M S M E I A E E D W J D F E E H L O S I A A R

SOLUTION KEY – Word Search (Finding True Happiness – Matthew 5:1-16)

S H  
R E A  
N E V A E H E N D L P  
C K I M R I P  
I A H E A G I  
O M S R W H N  
J E C E T E  
E C I R S  
K I N G D O M R A F S  
M E U  
H B L E S S E D E P L  
T E S E L P I C S I D  
R K  
A T L A S G L O R I F Y  
E R I G H T E O U S N E S S

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