

**Cultivating
a Christian Character**

***Studies in
The Sermon on the Mount
Matthew chapters 5-7***

***Congratulations!
Matthew 5.1-12***

Blessed = congratulations!

***not what a person feels like (happy)
but what God thinks of them (commendable)***

Jesus is addressing his would-be disciples

***not simply the crowds **Mat 4.32-5.2; 6.33**
learning is more important than being healed***

1. The Congratulations are Counter-Cultural

not what society expects to hear

Jesus puts our values the right way up

2. How we look at ourselves, vs 3-4

- *recognise personal spiritual poverty v3*
God's grace is for the humble 1 Pet 5.5
avoid every trace of pride Rev 3.17-20
- *mourn personal sinfulness v4*
contrition is the key to revival Isaiah 57.15
grieve, to enjoy forgiveness James 4.9-10
Psalms 66.18; Isaiah 40.12

3. How we relate to others, vs 5,7,9

- **Be meek – not self-assertive v5**
use power gently for the benefit of others
Jesus is our perfect example Rom 8.17
- **Be merciful – to those who fail, wrong us v7**
to enjoy mercy and forgiveness from God
5.38, 44-45; 6.14-15
- **Be peacemakers – wherever possible v9**
emulate God, our Father Eph 2.13-14

4. How we relate to God, vs 6,8,10-12

- **Keep hearts pure v6**
don't allow sin to cloud your vision
- **Live for what's right – in God's sight v8**
the secret of personal fulfilment
John 4.34; 17.4
- **Endure hardships – for Christ's sake v10-12**
it won't be easy,
but it will be richly rewarded