

# MATTHEW 5 vs 1

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**<sup>1</sup> And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain:**

**and when He sat down** / He wasn't parading around... even His body language told us He's going to say something important, so gather around. The Lord sat down. And can we agree that Jesus, the master Teacher of all time, He chose words and phrases they understood. He could teach anything from basic life science to molecular biology or astrophysics; He could teach basic numbers sense to advanced calculus... **but they didn't need those lessons**. Still, He was there to help His students. And can we agree: as their Teacher, He used phrases that His students would respond to... that lights would turn on... and faith in action would result in thanks and praise to God. That's why He came.



Matthew writes...

**He went up on a mountain, and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him** / his mathetes came to Him, those doing the math were with Him:

**<sup>2</sup> And He opened His mouth, and taught them** / like any good teacher would. It's good to know Jesus doesn't expect us to read His mind. By the way, Jesus is not creating a new Mount Sinai; **one Mount Sinai in Arabia** serves its purpose,

**He... taught them, saying,**

**<sup>3</sup> Blessed** / makarios, marked with God's favor...right now!

**are the poor in spirit** / Jesus is teaching lessons of the spirit; to the Samaritan women, Jesus said: **God is spirit... and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.** So, Jesus is teaching lessons of the heart... the sacred place where the Spirit of God intersects with the individual... the place of love and joy and peace; hopefully you have a heart, even a poor heart; He has come to enrich it:

**Blessed are the poor in spirit...**

**for theirs is the kingdom of heaven** / the place where all God's talent and supply... is readily available to accomplish His purposes. Matthew's audience was primarily Jewish, and out of respect for the culture... only three times he used the phrase: **kingdom of God**. And one of those times it is perfectly interchanged with: **the kingdom of heaven**. By the way, the word heaven or heavens is the same word, so don't be bothered when you hear the word: **heavens**... which is easier to say... than the fanciful Stephen Hawking's and his unobservable plural... universes... right?!

**Marked with God's favor... are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

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**4 Blessed** / makarios, marked with God's favor,

**are those who mourn now: for they will be comforted** / it is future, but it is certain.

**5 Blessed** / makarios, marked with God's favor,

**are the meek for they will inherit the earth** / the tame, Isaiah says, He will not cry out, nor cause His voice to be heard in the streets. What a most powerful Man; not a big mouth.

**6 Blessed** / makarios, marked with God's favor,

**are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they will be filled** / for doing what is right; what God says is right, they will be satisfied; He is not talking about the self-righteous who are full of themselves.

**7 Blessed** / makarios, marked with God's favor,

**are the merciful: for they will obtain mercy** / they will receive... what is not deserved.

**8 Blessed** / makarios, marked with God's favor,

**are the pure** / and you can almost hear the self-righteous interrupt: finally, He is speaking my language! But in this broken, very imperfect world... Jesus said...

**the pure in heart** / the word is **katharos**... where we get the word: **catheter**... used during the operation for the drainage of fluids. Jesus is talking about those who are learning lessons of the heart; whose hearts are being cleaned by God and His word:

**for they will see God** / God who is spirit... must be worshiped in spirit and in truth: these are not science lessons... they are lessons of the spirit, being remade in God's image: Jesus our Teacher is letting us know... God is getting His people ready to see Him, and to enjoy eternity with Him!

**9 Blessed** / makarios, marked with God's favor,

**are the peacemakers** / He is never impressed with those who are divisive; **He hates division among His people**. – **Proverbs 6**. God's favorite words are always... **grace** and **peace** from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Anyone who says they aren't... run from them!

**we have been called to reconcile... and to bring together:**

**for they will be called the children of God** / notice: they are God's children... first graders... learning these lessons from our great Teacher... about God our Father, and what to discover... what to find where He lives... where His influence is made known.

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**10 Blessed** / makarios, marked with God's favor,

**are those persecuted on account of rightness** / those who are persecuted... for representing God, for doing things His way.

**for the kingdom of heaven is theirs** / where all God's supply is ready and available to accomplish His purpose: remaking men and women in His image and likeness.

**11 Blessed** / makarios, marked with God's favor,

**are you when others revile you, and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you, for My sake** / when others heap insults upon you for representing Me.

**12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad** / Jesus says: Get excited about it!

**for great is your reward in heaven: for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you** / you are in good company; many men and women the world is not worthy of... have already gone ahead of us. So rejoice! especially when you are hated without a cause -- you are in good company!

**13 You are salt of the earth** / all of you, don't worry about being small and seemingly insignificant. You can change the flavor of the whole boring meal. You even keep this place from putrefying:

**but if the salt has lost its savor** / if it has lost its saltiness, **how is it going to become salty again?**

**from then on it is good for nothing, but to be thrown out, and trampled underfoot by men.**

**14 You are light in the world** / so don't be intimidated by the task. Don't be comparing yourself to the massive darkness and stumbling all around you. Those who can see your little candle light will come. The cockroaches and critters might scramble... but don't worry!

**A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid** / a city filled with lights...like we see in nighttime satellite images of cities that dot the globe. The people of God are very much like that as we shine in the darkness. A shining city set on a hill... or a lighthouse along the coast... is supposed to be seen.



**15 Men do not light a candle, and put it under a bushel** / a bushel bucket, or in the cupboard, do they? **but on a candlestick, and it gives light to all who are in the house.**

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**16 Let your light so shine before mankind that they see your good works** / let your light shine in such a way that they see you, but don't let it stop there!

**And glorify your Father who is in heaven** / it's okay to boast and brag about our Father God.

And Jesus said...

**17 Do not think I came to destroy the law or the prophets** / our Father in heaven, HE is GOOD! Loving Him, having no gods before Him... is not a bad thing! **God gave us 10 instructions**... and no more **to do and keep**; He likes orderliness among His children that they prosper and live long on the earth – **Deuteronomy 5**. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Amos... and all the others, they are all good people. They told us in each generation... the Lord is still our Shepherd: that is good news! They told us a lot more! Jesus says: we can still learn from the prophets, too:

**but to fulfill** / in other words, Jesus says, **Read them; you will find Me in them!**

**18 For Amen! I say to you** / count on it! What Jesus is going to say is with greatest certainty; at least 9 times during this message, Jesus uses that phrase: **I say to you**... pushing aside 1,000 years of religious tradition; none of this was taught in Nazareth, in Galilee or in Jerusalem; and it is not in the Talmud.

So, where did Jesus learn this?

**I say to you, Till heaven and earth pass, not one jot or one tittle** / not the smallest mark or stroke of a letter, **will pass away from the law, till all is fulfilled.**

**19 So whoever breaks one of these least commands, and will teach men to do the same,**  
**he will be called least in the kingdom of heaven:**

**but whoever will do and teach them** / and notice: the word **perfectly** is NOT in this verse. Jesus is a good Teacher: He knows He is teaching the children of God who live in a very broken world,

**whoever will do and teach them, the same will be called great in the kingdom of heaven** / and we know, Jesus kept and taught the Law and the prophets... better than anyone. Matter of fact, He did and taught like no other. So, let's remember to lift Him up! because He is pretty great in the kingdom of heaven, wouldn't you say? Without Him... we can do nothing; and it's as if Jesus our great Teacher is looking at each of his students... walking amid his class -- the great multitude that gathered on that hillside, and He says...

**20 For I say to you, that except your rightness exceeds...** the lifeless, loveless, faithless checklist of their activities – **the rightness of the scribes and Pharisees,**

**you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.**