

MAY DEVOTIONAL: *BEE-Attitudes—Becoming More Like Jesus*

Scripture: Matthew 5:3–12, NIV

Our theme this month is *Sweet As Can BEE*, and when we think of bees, one of the first things that comes to mind is honey.

Honey is sweet. In fact, throughout Scripture, sweetness and honey are often used to describe something good, pleasant, and desirable.

But today, instead of talking about the sweetness of honey, I want us to think about another kind of sweetness—the kind that can be seen in a life that is becoming more and more like Jesus.

In Matthew 5, Jesus began what we call the Sermon on the Mount with a series of statements known as the Beatitudes.

The word *Beatitudes* refers to the idea of being blessed. But Jesus' description of a blessed life may be a little different from what we would expect.

Let's read His words aloud together.

Note: Display the passage on a TV screen or provide printed copies so everyone can read along together.

MATTHEW 5:3–12 NIV

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven.”

When Jesus describes a blessed person, He doesn't talk about someone who has an easy life, plenty of money, perfect health, or no problems.

Instead, He gives us a very different picture of what it means to be blessed.

He describes people who are humble, compassionate, gentle, hungry for what is right, merciful, pure-hearted, peaceful, and faithful even when life is difficult.

In other words, Jesus is showing us not just what He wants us to **do**, but who He wants us to **become**.

So, using our theme today, let's think about four simple BEE-Attitudes.

1. BEE HUMBLE

Jesus begins, "Blessed are the poor in spirit."

Being poor in spirit doesn't mean thinking poorly of ourselves. It means recognizing that we need God.

No matter how long we have been Christians, how much Bible knowledge we have, or how many years of life experience we have gained, we never reach a point where we no longer need Him.

Every day we can say,

"Lord, I need You. Teach me. Lead me. Help me."

That kind of humility keeps our hearts soft and teachable.

2. BEE HUNGRY

Jesus said,

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

Most of us know what it feels like to be really hungry. When we're hungry, food gets our attention.

Jesus says we should have that same kind of desire for what is good, right, and pleasing to God.

We should never become satisfied with simply knowing about God. We can keep getting to know Him better, keep growing, and keep asking Him to make us more like Jesus. After all, there is no retirement age for spiritual growth.

3. BEE MERCIFUL

Jesus said,

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

Mercy is one of the sweetest things we can offer another person. It means giving grace instead of keeping score, being patient with someone's weaknesses, forgiving, and remembering how much mercy God has shown us so that we can extend that same mercy to someone else.

A harsh word can stay with someone for years.

But so can an unexpected kindness.

We may never know what a difference a gentle word, a phone call, a note, an invitation, or a little forgiveness can make in another person's life.

4. BEE A PEACEMAKER

Jesus said,

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

Notice that Jesus didn't say, “Blessed are the people who never have disagreements.”

He said, “Blessed are the peacemakers.”

Peacemakers bring something good into difficult situations.

They don't stir up gossip or add fuel to arguments. They listen. They forgive. They look for ways to bring people together. In other words, they bring the character of Christ into the room.

Every one of us has places where we can be a peacemaker—in our families, our friendships, our church, and our community.

SO WHAT KIND OF PERSON AM I BECOMING?

That may be the question the Beatitudes ask us today.

Not simply: What have I accomplished?

Not: How much do I know?

Not even: How many years have I followed Jesus?

But: What kind of person am I becoming because I follow Him?

Am I becoming more humble?

More hungry for God?

More merciful?

More of a peacemaker?

More like Jesus?

The wonderful thing is that God is still working on us.

Regardless of our age or season of life, He is still shaping our hearts.

He still has things to teach us.

He still has people for us to encourage.

He still has opportunities for us to show mercy.

He still has places where we can bring peace.

And He still wants the people around us to see a little more of Jesus because they have been with us.

Honey may be sweet, but there is something even sweeter: a life that reflects the character of Christ. May our words, attitudes, relationships, and responses to others become sweeter as we become more like Jesus. And may the people around us experience His goodness through the way we live.

That's a pretty good way to BEE!

Closing Prayer: Father, thank You for the words of Jesus and for the picture He gives us of a truly blessed life.

Help us to be humble and always aware of our need for You. Give us a hunger for what is right and good. Make us merciful toward others because You have shown us so much mercy. Help us to be peacemakers wherever You place us.

No matter our age or season of life, continue shaping us into the people You want us to be.

May our words, our attitudes, and our actions reflect the sweetness and goodness of Jesus to the people around us.

In Jesus' name, amen.