

Sermon Series: Today's Message: March 19, 2017	RED "Blessed" Derek Harden
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Matthew 5:1-12 (ESV)

- 1** Seeing the crowds, He went up on the mountain, and when He sat down, His disciples came to 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 those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
- 5** Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
- 6** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- 7** Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
- 8** Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- 9** Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
- 10** Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11** Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
- 12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

"Blessed" —> God's favor is upon

Jesus NOTICES the UNNOTICED.

His FAVOR is upon the UNFAVORABLE.

Matthew 25:34-40 (ESV)

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are **blessed by my Father**, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. **35** For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, **36** I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' **37** Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? **38** And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? **39** And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' **40** And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"

God's PRESENT favor leads to FUTURE fulfillment.

Application Challenge:

How could the hope of God's **future** fulfillment encourage you in the midst of your **present** circumstance?

How could you express God's heart for the unnoticed or 'least of these' in your community or sphere of influence?
