

The Simple Gospel

How do we live it?

Pastor Jen Yarbrough | September 14, 2025

Thread: Jesus starts with teaching us how to **BE** because it all begins in the heart.

Experiencing the Kingdom of Heaven hinges on the condition of our hearts.

“God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.” **Matthew 5:3 NLT**

- Blessed
- **BE** poor (in spirit)/repentant
- Resulting promise - the Kingdom of Heaven

“So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.” **Hebrews 4:14-16 NLT**

A surrendered heart is required—it’s the one thing God can’t do.

“God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

Matthew 5:4 NLT

- Blessed
- **BE** mournful/sorrowful
- Resulting promise – Comfort

“That is why the Lord says, ‘Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Don’t tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead.’ Return to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish.”

Joel 2:12-13 NLT

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.”

Revelation 21:4 NLT

“God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.” **Matthew 5:5 NLT**

- Blessed
- **BE** humble/meek
- Resulting promise – Inherit the Whole Earth

“Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.” **Philippians 2:3-5 NLT**

“The lowly will possess the land and will live in peace and prosperity.” **Psalms 37:11 NLT**

“God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.” **Matthew 5:6 NLT**

- Blessed
- **BE** desiring of justice/righteousness
- Resulting promise – Satisfaction

“Whoever pursues righteousness and unending love will find life, righteousness, and honor.” **Proverbs 21:21 NLT**

“God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

Matthew 5:7 NLT

- Blessed
- **BE** merciful
- Resulting promise – Mercy

“Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.” **Ephesians 4:31-32 NLT**

“There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you.” **James 2:13 NLT**

Challenges:

-How would you describe the condition of your heart?

-If you haven’t yet, come to Him, offering a repentant and surrendered heart.

-Repeat daily.

Simple Gospel

Fall 2025 | Week 1

Message Date 9/14/2025

MY STORY

- 1) What's the most unusual thing you've ever done with duct tape?
- 2) You can make one chore illegal forever—which one goes, and why?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

Matthew 5:1–7 (NLT)

¹One day as he saw the crowds gathering, Jesus went up on the mountainside and sat down. His disciples gathered around him,

²and he began to teach them.

³"God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

⁴God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.

⁶God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.

⁷God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

- 4) Jesus begins with "Blessed are the poor in spirit." Pastor Jen explained this as living with a surrendered, repentant heart. Why is repentance the foundation for the rest of the Beatitudes?

- 5) Verse 4 says: "God blesses those who mourn, for they will be comforted." What does it mean to "mourn" in a godly way, and how have you experienced God's comfort in times of sorrow or repentance?
- 6) Verse 5 says: "God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth." Why does biblical humility (or meekness) require strength, not weakness? How does humility transform our relationships?
- 7) Verse 6 says: "God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied." How can we tell if we truly hunger for righteousness/justice? What practices help us grow in this desire?
- 8) How do you define mercy and how do we define Grace? What is the difference between the two?
- 9) Verse 7 says: "God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown mercy." Why is mercy central to Christian life? How does showing mercy reflect God's character?
- 10) How are these "Be attitudes" states of being instead of things to do, and what is the difference?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Reflection Questions for Chair Time: think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) What in your life do you need to bring to Jesus right now with a surrendered and repentant heart?
- 2) How have you experienced comfort from God recently? Ask Him to remind you of His presence in your mourning.
- 3) Who is one person you can show mercy to this week in a tangible way? Pray for the strength to reflect Christ's compassion.