

INTRO//

- Welcome
- Introduce Self

ILLUSTRATION// SUBVERTING EXPECTATIONS

- You ever expect something and the **OPPOSITE** thing happens to you?
 - Good thing: snow days
 - Bad thing: taking a sip out of a drink that you thought was something else
- *(Show video of our Gender Reveal)*
- Heart of the series
 - When Jesus walked among us, he brought with Him a way of life that was backwards from the cultural norms. His ways, His thoughts, His practices were, and still are today, upside down from how we typically tend to think. And we don't see more in any place like we do in Jesus's most famous message, the Sermon on the Mount.

TENSION//

- Show of hands, how many of you recognize the **SERMON ON THE MOUNT**?
- One word that you'll see a lot especially at the beginning of the passage is...

BLESSED

BLESSED - Happiness that comes from a deep, inward satisfaction rather than outward circumstances

- What does it actually look like to have a "blessed" or a "good" life?

BIBLE//

MATTHEW 5:3-7

"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.”

- So let's break these down one by one

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

- Poor in spirit - “recognizing our spiritual poverty”
 - Recognize our dependence on God and grow in our trust in Him
- This is the **OPPOSITE** of who we normally think would inherit much
 - Instead of the self-sufficient or the proud, it's the humble and the lowly
 - The kingdom of Heaven isn't earned, it's a **GIFT**

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

- To mourn - “to feel deep sorrow, to show great concern, or to deplore some existing wrong.”

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

- Meek - humble and submissive
 - Again, this is in **opposition** to who we think we could typically “inherit the earth”
 - Not the proud or the ambitious, but the humble and submissive

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

- To have a deep longing for personal righteousness and justice for the oppressed

CONNECT//

HOW CAN I LIVE A “BLESSED” LIFE OR A “GOOD” LIFE?

1. RECOGNITION OF MY WEAKNESS

- You want to know what's so encouraging? Jesus isn't saying...
 - "to be blessed, you need to be better"
 - "to be blessed, you need to follow these rules"
 - "to be blessed, you need to be a better Christian"
- God knew that on our own, we could **NEVER** measure up

ROMANS 3:23

"...for ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

- Our walk with Jesus can only start **AFTER** we recognize our own brokenness
 - We are **IN NEED OF A SAVIOR**

ROMANS 3:23-24

"...for ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and ALL are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

- Actually, the first thing is to **STOP TRYING SO HARD**
 - We have to come to the realization that we are **NOT GOOD ENOUGH ON OUR OWN**
 - Once we realize how badly we need God, only then can we start to be lifted up by Him
 - **ILLUSTRATION// SWING** (by swinging low, you can reach higher heights)
- You know where I struggle and I think a lot of us here in America can struggle?
 - It's **EASY** to recognize that we are in need when times are tough]
 - It's the hardest, though, when times are **GOOD**
- I want to learn that in every season, I am in need of Savior and am not enough
 - Regardless of my circumstances, I am a sinner
 - Regardless of how good I feel, I am in need of Jesus

(CALL KEYS UP)

2. RUNNING TO GOD'S GOODNESS

- Run to his...
 - Overwhelming, unconditional love!
 - Strength to pull you through anything!
 - Wisdom that has every answer!
 - Guidance that will mold and shape you into men and women of power!

2 CORINTHIANS 1:8-9

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

DISCLAIMER

- This doesn't mean it will always be **EASY**

CHALLENGE//

- Salvation Call
- Go back into a worship song
- Promo Called Sundays