



The Sermon on the Mount:
Foundations and directions
for life from Jesus

LIFE 101

THIS SUNDAY'S MESSAGE:

This is **Bliss**

Matthew 5:3-12





THE BEATITUDES



Primary New Testament Beatitudes

The Poor in Spirit

The Pure in Heart

Those Who Mourn

The Peacemakers

The Meek

The Persecuted

Those Who Hunger

Those Who Believe

The Merciful

Those Who Give

Origin of the word “Beatitude”

- The word *beatitude* comes from a Latin word (*beatus*) that means “happy” or “blessed.”

What does it mean to be happy/blessed?

- The answer is found in the context of the Beatitudes in Matthew 5, the first part of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1–7:29).

Signs of the Coming Kingdom

- Jesus began his ministry by announcing the coming kingdom: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near” (Matt. 4:17).
- In Matthew 4:23–25, Jesus healed the sick throughout Galilee, a demonstration of the coming kingdom of heaven, of the fulfillment of God’s promises through the Old Testament prophets.

What are the Beatitudes?

- The Beatitudes are not commands the believer must fulfill to enter the kingdom of God.
- Rather, they are results of the coming of this kingdom, a description of the kingdom fulfilled.

The Good News of the Beatitudes

- The beatitudes are part of the gospel, the good news that Jesus, the Messiah, has come, that God was about to intervene decisively in history and produce people like the ones described in the Sermon on the Mount.

The Beatitudes

Old Testament Beatitudes

- In Proverbs 8:34–35,, “Blessed is the man who listens to me ... for he who finds me finds life.”
- Jesus ends the Sermon on the Mount by advising his hearers to take his words to heart as a matter of life and death; (Matt. 7:24–27), a reflection of O. T. teachings.

Happiness or Woe – Your Choice

Blessings and Curses

- Luke's gospel contains a series of "woes" which are the opposites of the blessings (Luke 6:24–26).
- The woes describe the natural consequences of ignoring God's will, telling us what we can expect if we do not live the way God desires.

A scenic landscape featuring a large body of water on the left, rolling hills and fields in the middle ground, and distant mountains under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The foreground is filled with lush green vegetation. The text "The Poor in Spirit" is overlaid in a large, bold, yellow serif font across the center of the image.

The Poor in Spirit

The Poor in Spirit

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

– *Matthew 5:5*

Like the poor and destitute who depend on others, the poor in spirit know that only God can save and protect them.

A scenic landscape featuring a large, calm blue lake in the background, surrounded by rolling hills and fields. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds. In the foreground, there are green bushes and tall grasses. A large tree is visible on the right side of the frame. The text "Those Who Mourn" is overlaid in a bold, yellow, serif font across the center of the image.

Those Who Mourn

Those Who Mourn

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” – *Matt. 5:4*

“Those who mourn” refers to people wishing God to send his Messiah, hoping God will restore his kingdom and set the world right.



The Meek

The Meek

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” – *Matthew 5:5*

- This beatitude alludes to Psalm 37:11: “But the meek will inherit the land.” Who are *the meek*?
“Trust in the Lord and do good.... Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him.” (Psalm 37:3–5)



**Those Who Hunger
and Thirst for
Righteousness**

Those Who Hunger

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

– *Matt. 5:6*

- The recognition of one’s spiritual poverty leads to a hunger for righteousness—for God’s rule to bring justice and a satisfaction for those who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness: “My servants will eat ... my servants will rejoice” (Isa. 65:13).

A scenic landscape featuring a large, calm blue lake in the middle ground, surrounded by rolling hills and fields. The foreground is filled with lush green and yellow wildflowers. The sky is a vibrant blue, dotted with fluffy white clouds. The text "The Merciful" is prominently displayed in the center in a bold, yellow, serif font. A large tree with green leaves is visible on the right side of the frame.

The Merciful

The Merciful

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” –
Matthew 5:7

- Mercy is part of God’s own nature: “...the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness” (Exodus 34:6).



The Pure in Heart

The Pure in Heart

“Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God.” – *Matthew 5:8*

- Seeing God is one of the greatest hopes of the believer, but only the pure in heart may receive this blessing. Having a heart that desires only what God wants is not the result of personal effort.

The Peacemakers

A scenic landscape featuring a large, calm blue lake in the middle ground, surrounded by rolling hills. The foreground is dominated by lush green and yellow wildflowers. The sky is a vibrant blue, filled with scattered white clouds. The title 'The Peacemakers' is prominently displayed in the center in a bold, yellow, serif font. A large tree with green leaves is visible on the right side of the frame.

The Peacemakers

“Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called sons of God.” – *Matt. 5:9*

- This beatitude brings together two Old Testament concepts: peace and sons of God. Peace is a central characteristic of the kingdom of heaven... “The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat,..., and a little child will lead them.” – *Isaiah 11:6*



Those Who Are Persecuted

Those Who Are Persecuted

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” – *Matt. 5:10*

- Just like the kingdom of heaven belongs to the poor in spirit, it also belongs to the ones persecuted because of righteousness.



Those Who Believe

Those Who Believe

“Blessed are those who have not seen yet have believed.” – *John 20:29*

- It is one thing to have seen the risen Christ as hundreds did, and yet another to believe today based on the word of these eyewitnesses.
- There is a special blessing experienced by those who know that Christ has risen, based on the testimony alone.

Those Who Give



Those Who Give

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” – *Acts 20:35*

- According to Scripture, giving, especially to those in need, brings joy. To meet other peoples' needs is the road to a blessed life. To constantly take without giving robs a person of this joy and leads to a life of empty frustration.

A Prayer for the Beatitudes

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you, praised for you or criticized for you.

A Prayer for the Beatitudes

Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and fully surrender all things to your hope and service. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be made also in heaven. Amen.