

**POOR
IN SPIRIT
BLESSED ARE THE
THOSE WHO MOURN
THE MEEK
HUNGRY & THIRSTY
THE MERCIFUL
PURE
IN HEART
THE PEACEMAKERS
PERSECUTED
INSULTED**

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 SONS 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, FOR IN THE SAME WAY THEY PERSECUTED THE PROPHETS WHO WERE BEFORE YOU.

The Beatitudes of Jesus

Lesson 1

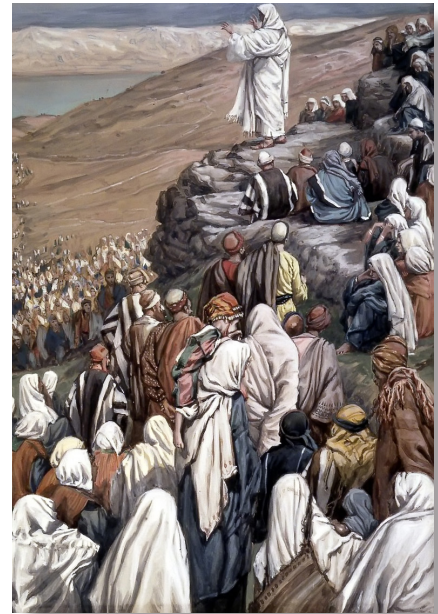
Introduction

Read Matthew 5:1-12

A business man, upon hearing a series of sermons on the Beatitudes, walked out of church services one day and never returned... When asked why...

“The preacher said that these are the people who are in the kingdom: the poor, those who mourn, the meek. Fact is, I’m none of those things – I’m well off; I’m laughing all the time; and I didn’t get where I am today because I’m meek...”

A “beatitude,” as the term is applied to these sayings of Jesus, is a statement of extreme blessedness. Jesus is telling us, in the famous Sermon on the Mount, who is blessed and, by implication, who is not (see Luke 6:20-26 which includes the “woes” after the blessings).



Questions for Discussion

1. What’s a blessing? *See Luke 1:42; John 20:29; Romans 4:8; Revelation 5:12-13.*
2. Are these sayings entrance requirements or something else?
3. Read Mark 10:17-22, the account of the rich, young ruler. Was he blessed?
4. On first glance, would you say these characteristics are easy to come by or...?
5. How do these qualities match up with what our culture tends to value? Who are the “blessed” in this world (that is, blessed by the world)? Cf. Luke 6:26.

Lesson 2

"Blessed are the poor in spirit"

Matthew 5:3

Questions for Discussion

1. Do a word study on "poor in spirit." The Greek word is *ptochos*.
2. Is Jesus talking about money, necessarily? If not, what is he talking about?
3. Reconcile this text with Luke 6:20 where it just says "blessed are the poor."
4. What is the future blessing promised to those who are "poor in spirit"? What does it mean?



Lesson 3

"Blessed are those who mourn"

Matthew 5:4

Questions for Discussion

1. Do a word study on "mourn" The Greek word is *pentheo*.
2. How is it possible for those who are in mourning to be blessed?
3. What kind of "mourning" is Jesus speaking about? See Amos: 6:6; 8:10; Isa. 6:5; II Cor. 7:8-11
4. What is the future blessing promised to those who mourn? What does it mean?



Lesson 4

"Blessed are the meek"

Matthew 5:5

Questions for Discussion

1. Do a word study on "meek" The Greek word is *praus*.
2. How does this quality square with the conventional wisdom of our day?
3. Who else is described as "meek" in the scriptures?
4. What is the future blessing promised to those who are meek? What does it mean?



Lesson 5

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness" Mt. 5:6



Questions for Discussion

1. Do a word study on "righteousness." The Greek word is *dikaiosune*.
2. What is Jesus driving at with the use of "hunger and thirst"? How might this have less impact on people who are living comfortable lives than on those who are poor?
3. What causes Christians to lose their appetite for the word of God?
4. What is the future blessing promised to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness?

Lesson 6

"Blessed are the merciful..."

Matthew 5:7

Questions for Discussion

1. Do a word study on "merciful." The Greek word is *eleemon*.
2. What is the opposite of "merciful"? Are most people in our society inclined to extend mercy? If so, to whom?
3. Under what circumstances is extending mercy most difficult for us?
4. What is the future blessing promised to those who are merciful?

Lesson 7

"Blessed are pure in heart."

Matthew 5:8

Questions for Discussion

1. Do a word study on "pure." The Greek word is *katharos*.
2. Describe purity of heart. Is it limited to having clean thoughts or is there more to it?
3. Would you describe our culture as "pure"? Provide some evidence from current events to support your answer.
4. What is the future blessing promised to those who are pure in heart?

Lesson 8

"Blessed are the peacemakers..."

Matthew 5:9

Questions for Discussion

1. Do a word study on "peace." The Greek word is **eirene**. Describe the possible uses of the word "peace."
2. Give some examples of situations in which we might find ourselves as "peacemakers."
3. Is our culture a "peacemaker" culture? Provide some evidence from current events to support your answer.
4. What is the future blessing promised to those who are peacemakers?

Lesson 9

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake"

Matthew 5:10-12

Questions for Discussion

1. Do a word study on "persecute." The Greek word is ***dioko***. We are blessed when we suffer what *kind* of persecution? ***What does that mean?***
2. Give some examples of situations in which we are persecuted ***today?***
3. What is the future blessing promised to those who are persecuted?