

THE BEATITUDES

Contrasts with the World's Paths to Happiness

(Matthew 5:3-12)

Blessed are the poor in spirit.

“He who ends up with the most toys wins.”

“Lo, this is the man who made not God his strength, but trusted in the abundance of his riches” (Psa. 52:7).

The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts” (Psa. 10:4).

Take assertiveness training; claw your way to the top of the ladder of “success.”

“Winning is everything.”

Don't be satisfied with being only #2.

Have the last word in every argument.

Blessed are those who mourn.

Drown your sorrows with alcohol.

“Don't worry, be happy” (Bobby McFerrin, 1988).

“Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag and smile, smile, smile” (WWI marching song by George and Felix Powell, 1915).

Blessed are the meek.

“The men of Ephraim said unto [Gideon], Why have you served us thus that you didn't call us.... And they chided with him sharply” (Judg. 8:1).

“The men of Ephraim ... said unto Jephthah ... Why didn't you call us? We will burn your house with fire” (Judg. 12:1).

When the army of Ephraim learned they weren't needed for battle, “their anger was greatly kindled against Judah, and they returned home in great anger” (2 Chron. 25:10).

“If you do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses” (Mark 11:26).

“In the last days ... men shall be ... truce-breakers [or implacable, unwilling to make peace]” (2 Tim. 3:3; Rom. 1:31).

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

Hungering and thirsting for favorite food and drink, entertainment, wealth, the latest electronic toy.

Putting great effort into training for an athletic contest or music performance.

Being lazy with respect to right living, letting life happen, doing what you can get away with.

Prison inmate: “God, if it is your will for me to buy drugs today, help me to find a dealer.”

“It's okay as long as no one sees you or finds out.”

Blessed are the merciful.

A Christian acquaintance once said to my wife, “I feel so sorry for you with your husband away, children to take care of, and you being pregnant besides,” but did not offer to help. It makes people feel good about themselves if they give to the needy (selfish motive rather than doing it in response to God’s great mercy toward us).

Blessed are the pure in heart.

“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matt. 12:34).

Sins of speech: Lying, corrupt communication, bitterness, evil speaking, filthiness, foolish talking, jesting (Eph. 4:25, 29, 31; 5:4), using the name of the Lord in an empty way (Exod. 20:7).

Engaging in immoral fantasies (Matt. 5:28), reading books such as romance novels that glorify or condone sin, and, of course, watching defiling scenes on TV, video, or the Internet.

Blessed are the peacemakers.

Starting arguments, picking fights, finding fault, teasing.

“The scorner ... and all who watch for iniquity ... make a man an offender for a word ... and turn aside the just for nothing” (Isa. 29:20,21).

“Fathers, provoke not your children to anger” (Col. 3:21).

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake.

“Let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evil doer, or as a busy body in other men’s matters” (1 Pet. 4:15).

Blessed are you, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake.

“If we deny Him, He also will deny us” (2 Tim. 2:12).

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone” (Rev. 21:8).

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Attitudes and Characteristics of Christ

(Matthew 5:3-12)

Blessed are the poor in spirit.

- “Show Me a penny” (Luke 20:24).
- “The Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head” (Matt. 8:20).
- “Jesus held His peace” (Matt. 26:63).

Blessed are those who mourn.

- “Jesus wept” (John 11:35).
- “O Jerusalem! Jerusalem!” (Matt. 23:37).
- “Being grieved for the hardness of their hearts” (Mark 3:5).
- “My soul is exceeding sorrowful” (Matt. 26:38).

Blessed are the meek.

- “When He was reviled, reviled not again” (1 Pet. 2:23).
- “Cannot My Father ... give Me more than twelve legions of angels?” (Matt. 26:53)

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

- “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word [from] God” (Matt. 4:4).
- “My meat is to do the will of Him who sent Me” (John 4:34).
- “I delight to do Thy will, O My God” (Psa. 40:8).
- “Not My will, but Thine be done” (Luke 22:42).

Blessed are the merciful.

- “Jesus ... was moved with compassion toward them and He healed their sick” (Matt. 14:14; 20:34).
- “I have compassion on the multitude, because they ... have nothing to eat” (Matt. 15:32).
- “And Jesus ... was moved with compassion ... because they were as sheep not having a shepherd” (Mark 6:34).

Blessed are the pure in heart.

- “He knew no sin” (2 Cor. 5:21).
- “He did no sin” (1 Pet. 2:22).
- “In Him is no sin” (1 John 3:5).
- “The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do” (John 5:19).

Blessed are the peacemakers.

- When Christ’s disciples were arguing among themselves as to who was the greatest, He responded, “He who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who is chief, as he who serves” (Luke 22:26).
- “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you” (John 14:27).
- “Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:1).

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake.

After He sent the demons into the swine, “they besought Him to depart” (Matt. 8:34).

After He healed the hand, “the Pharisees ... took counsel ... how they might destroy Him” (Mark 3:6).

“He casts out demons through Beelzebub the chief of the demons” (Luke 11:14).

Blessed are you, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake.

“When they heard these [gracious words], they were filled with wrath” (Luke 4:28).

“He has spoken blasphemy” (Matt. 26:66).

“Let Him be crucified!” (Matt. 27:22,23).