

THE BEATITUDES

Matthew 5

Blessed are..	Character / Quality	Description	References
Those who are poor in spirit 5:3	Humility	Stripped of pride and sensitive to God's Ministry in their behalf	Is. 61:1 Luke 4:16-21; 7:22
Those who mourn 5:4	Sensitivity	Responsive to personal sinfulness and tenderhearted toward one another	Is. 61:2 Eccl 3:1-8 Luke 19:41 John 11:33, 35
Those who are meek 5:5	Meekness	Demonstration of self control and submission	Matt 6:33 1 Peter 3:1-7
Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness 5:6	Obedience	Desire to hear and do the will of God	Luke 1:53
Those who are merciful 5:7	Compassion	Outworking of faith to meet the needs of others	Luke 1:58
Those who are pure in heart 5:8	Holiness	Lifestyle of set-apartness, including thoughts and actions	Ps 24:4-6
Those who are peacemakers 5:9	Reconciliation	Forbearance instead of retaliation; forgiveness of wrongs; restoration of fellowship	Rom 3:25; 12:18 Ephesians 4:32 Phil 1:3-5 Titus 3:2 1 John 1:7
Those who are persecuted for righteousness sake 5:10	Commitment	Steadfast loyalty that cannot be broken	Luke 13:35 2 Thess 2:15-17 2 Tim 2:3
Those who are reviled and persecuted 5:11	Patience	Willingness to endure suffering	1 Pet 2:19-21; 1 Pet 3:14 Rev. 12:11

Scripture taken from THE MESSAGE or NIV

HUMILITY

*Blessed are those who **hunger** and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.* (Matthew 5:6 NIV).

The **prayer** of God's Kingdom should be for righteousness in your own life. That will saturate your desires not to look over the fence to 'keep up with the Joneses'. Keeping up with the Joneses will never fill you, but rather suck you dry from inside.

Isaiah 61:1

The Spirit of God, the Master, is on me **because God anointed me. He sent me to preach good news to the poor, heal the heartbroken, Announce freedom to all captives, pardon all prisoners.**

Luke 4:16-21

16. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read.

17. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18. "The **Spirit of the LORD is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,**

19. to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor."

20. Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him,

Luke 7:22

So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and **the good news is preached to the poor.**

SENSITIVITY

Do you think the blessed of God will be high-spirited the whole time?

When Jesus says:

Happy are those who mourn; God will comfort them! (Matthew 5:4 The Good News Translation)

He encourages you to find comfort in God. When last have you poured out your heart before God in tears, because of your sorrows? Someone once said "tears are the spiritual windows of our souls".

Isaiah 61: 2

to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

Eccl 3:1-8

1. There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:
2. a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
3. a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
4. a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,
5. a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
6. a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,
7. a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,
8. a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

John 11:33-36

33. When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.
34. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, LORD," they replied.
35. Jesus wept.
36. Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

MEEKNESS

Do you confuse meekness with humbleness?

Jesus says: *Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.* (Matthew 5:5 KJV).

Meekness is the same word being used for a tamed animal. A tamed horse would obediently take his owner into a fierce battle without shunting away. So we should be like tamed animals in the hands of God, taking the good and the bad God sends or allows our way (see The Complete Word Study New Testament). The new heaven and new earth belongs to the meek.

Matthew 6:33

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

OBEDIENCE

Do you desire to hear and do the will of the father?

Sometimes we tend to only hear what we want to hear but we need to hear ALL that he is telling us and then follow what has been told to us in His word – For this is the will of the father.

Luke 1:41-55

41. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb leaped. She was filled with the Holy Spirit,

42. and sang out exuberantly, You're so blessed among women, and the babe in your womb, also blessed!

43. And why am I so blessed that the mother of my Lord visits me?

44. The moment the sound of your greeting entered my ears, The babe in my womb skipped like a lamb for sheer joy.

45. Blessed woman, who believed what God said, believed every word would come true!

46. And Mary said, I'm bursting with God-news;

47. I'm dancing the song of my Savior God.

48. God took one good look at me, and look what happened - I'm the most fortunate woman on earth! What God has done for me will never be forgotten,

49. the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others.

50. His mercy flows in wave after wave on those who are in awe before him.

51. He bared his arm and showed his strength, scattered the bluffing braggarts.

52. He knocked tyrants off their high horses, pulled victims out of the mud.

53. *The starving poor sat down to a banquet; the callous rich were left out in the cold.*

54. He embraced his chosen child, Israel; he remembered and piled on

the mercies, piled them high.

55. It's exactly what he promised, beginning with Abraham and right up to now.

COMPASSION

Have you ever considered that more people have less than you than more than?

This should motivate you to kindness towards the ones with less than you.

Happy are those who have mercy: for they will be given mercy. (Matthew 5:7 The Bible in Basic English)

Mercy is to do to others what they don't deserve. The tramp on the street corner might not deserve anything, since he or she is too lazy to work, but mercy should be when you anyway give him or her something.

Luke 1:58. Her neighbors and relatives, seeing that God had overwhelmed her with mercy, celebrated with her.

HOLINESS

When Jesus says that we have forsaken ourselves to follow Him, what does He mean?

To forsake ourselves is to do things for God, because God is God, and not with the hidden agenda to actually do it for ourselves to earn God's favour somehow. Jesus says:

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God". (Matthew 5:8 RSV)

Purity of heart is single mindedness – a single mind for God. This will bring us into the throne room of God.

Psalms 24:4-6

4. He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.

5. He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Savior.
6. Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob. "Selah"

RECONCILIATION

Does it take guts to be a peacemaker?

Yes, especially if the other part is actually on the wrong side and you have to take the blame to bring the peace, but that is what a Christian attitude is about. Many moms know that bringing peace between the children is to throw your life on the line. Jesus says:

Blessed are those who make peace. They will be called God's children. (Matthew 5:9 GOD'S WORD Translation)

Romans 3:25

God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished--

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Titus 3:1-2

1. Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good,
2. to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.

COMMITMENT

Can it be that you have a wrong perception of what it entitles to be blessed?

Nowhere in the [Bible](#) God promises no hardship, but rather that He will be with us in the tough times. In beatitudes 8th and 9th we read:

Those who are treated badly for doing good are happy, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to them. "People will insult you and hurt you. They will lie and say all kinds of evil things about you because you follow

me. But when they do, you will be happy. Rejoice and be glad, because you have a great reward waiting for you in heaven. People did the same evil things to the prophets who lived before you. (Matthew 5:10-12 The Message Bible)

Jesus spells it out that for His sake we'll be treated badly. A Christian attitude of love and meekness will always be misused, but Jesus says, in the above text, that we should rejoice and be glad since our reward/blessing is in heaven. Who wants a spectacular house in this world, if you can have a mansion in heaven?

2 Thessalonians 2:15-17

15. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

16. May our LORD Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope,

17. Encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

2 Timothy 2:3

3. When the going gets rough, take it on the chin with the rest of us, the way Jesus did.

PATIENCE

1 Peter 2:19-21

19. For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God.

20. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

21. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

1 Peter 3:14

But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened."

What beatitude is missing?

"Blessed are those who recognize they are spiritually helpless. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them". (Matthew 5:3 GOD'S WORD Translation)

This beatitude is actually the heading of all the others. All the other beatitudes are only possible when we are in 100% need of God.