



Matthew 7:24-27 *Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.*

THE BEATITUDES — Matthew 5:1-12

The character of a disciple

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught His discipleship deeper Truth, responsibility and eternal reward. The Beatitudes reveal a different quality of character and lifestyle than those still outside the kingdom.

The Beatitudes begin with the expression, “Blessed are...” However, “blessed” or happy means far more than the contemporary meaning. The idea here is that happiness is not based upon worldly circumstances but on Divine conditions.

1. Blessed are the **poor** (ptochos) **in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
 - One who has nothing and is completely empty, realizes that they can never achieve salvation on their own. Therefore they put their complete faith and trust in Jesus Christ.
 - In Luke 15:21 the prodigal son became poor in spirit and realized his sin. In Luke 18:10-14 the beggar was justified before God because of his humility.
2. Blessed are they who **mourn** (pentheo), for they will be comforted.
 - To mourn is to strike/beat the chest as an outward sign of inward grief.
 - In Nehemiah 1 we see the sorrow of Nehemiah over the result of the sins of Israel.
 - 2 Corinthians 7:10-11 states that true repentance resulting from sorrow changes the individual.
3. Blessed are the **meekest** (prautes), for they will inherit the earth.
 - The word refers to a strong and powerful horse or an ox that has been trained and disciplined. This is a person controlled by God in thought, word, will, emotion, and action.
 - Moses was the meekest man above all men (Numbers 12:3).
 - Psalm 25:9 *The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way.*
4. Blessed are they who **hunger and thirst for Righteousness** (dikaiosune), for they will be filled (satisfied with His abundant provision).
 - Righteousness is a life style that is in conformity to the will of God. It focuses on virtue, being morally right and ethical, as opposed to lawlessness.
 - If we desire to “see” Him He will show Himself. John 6: 35 *I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.* (Isaiah 55:1-2)

5. Blessed are the **merciful** (eleemon), for they shall be shown mercy.
 - Compassionate, involving the heart, mind with resulting action. Jesus had compassion on the crowds and healed and fed them (Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; 20:34).
 - Luke 6:38 *Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.*

6. Blessed are the **pure** (katharos) **in heart**, for they will see God.
 - Something cleansed by shaking it as in a sieve. It is free from impurities and other contaminants (Psalm 24:3-4).
 - Mark 7:20-23 states that every unclean thing comes from the heart, the origin of our emotions and will. However, Psalm 119:9 gives us the way to purify our heart and stay pure, *...by living according to your word.*

7. Blessed are the **peacemakers** (eirenopoios), for they will be called sons of God.
 - Because we have received peace with God in our own heart we can be peace makers, not just peace keepers.
 - Peace with God (Romans 5:1), the peace of God (Philippians 4:7), the God of Peace (Romans 16:10).

8. Blessed are those who are **persecuted** because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of God.
 - The blessing is for those who are being persecuted not for doing wrong but for doing right without malice. (1 Peter 2:19-20)
 - The stoning of Stephen in Acts 7:54-60.

APPLICATION

1. Give your impressions about this study on the Beatitudes. Is this different than your previous understanding? If so, in what way(s)?

2. Identify the areas that are the most challenging for you. Bring those into the light of God's Presence and allow Him to create those characteristics in you.