

# The Blessedness of the Beatitudes

Matthew 5

## Beatitude 1: Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven

- 1) The Jews had a special Hebrew word for poor.
  - a) Began by meaning simply poor.
  - b) Went on to mean, because poor, therefore having no influence or power; or help, or prestige.
  - c) Went on to mean because having no influence, therefore downtrodden and oppressed.
  - d) Finally, came to describe those who, because they have no earthly resources whatever, put their whole trust in God.
  - e) Described the humble and the helpless people who put their whole trust in God.
- 2) *Blessed are those who have realized their own utter helplessness, and who have put their whole trust in God.*

## Beatitude 2: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted

- 1) Literally, blessed are those who have endured the bitterest sorrow that life can bring.
  - a) Can show us the essential kindness of others.
  - b) Can show us the comfort and the compassion of God.
  - c) Christianity is caring: blessed are those who care intensely for the sufferings, and for the sorrows, and for the needs of others.
- 2) The second beatitude: *O the bliss of those whose hearts are broken for the world's suffering and for their own sin, for out of their sorrow they will find the joy of God!*

## Beatitude 3: Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

- 1) Today, the word *meek* carries the idea of spinelessness, subservience, submissive and ineffective person.
  - a) Meekness means the happy medium between too much and too little anger.
  - b) First possible translation of beatitude: *Blessed are those who are always angry at the right time, and never angry at the wrong time.*
- 2) One possible translation of beatitude: *Blessed are those who have every instinct, every impulse, every passion under control. Blessed are those who are entirely self-controlled.*
- 3) Translation of this beatitude: *O the bliss of those who are always angry at the right time and never angry at the wrong time, who have every instinct, impulse and passion under control because they themselves are God-controlled, who have the humility to realize their own ignorance and their own weakness, for such people can indeed rule the world!*

## Beatitude 4: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

- 1) Speaks of a hunger of someone who is starving for food, and the thirst of someone who will die unless given something to drink.

- 2) Do you want goodness as much as a starving person wants food?
- 3) Translation of this beatitude: *O the bliss of those who long for total righteousness as the starving long for food, and those perishing of thirst long for water, for they will be truly satisfied.*

**Beatitude 5: Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.**

- 1) Principle.
  - a) To be forgiven, must forgive.
  - b) The Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."
  - c) Mercy is the ability to get right inside other people until we can see things with their eyes, think things with their minds and feel things with their feelings
- 2) Translation of fifth beatitude might read: *O the bliss of those who get right inside other people, until they can see with their eyes, think with their thoughts, feel with their feelings, for those who do that will find others do the same for them, and will know that that is what God in Jesus Christ has done!*

**Beatitude 6: Blessed are the pure in heart; for they will see God.**

- 1) Basic meaning is *unmixed, unadulterated, unalloyed*.
- 2) Blessed are those whose motives are always entirely unmixed, for they shall see God.
  - a) If our work done from motives of service or from motives of pay?
  - b) Is our service given from selfless motives or from motives of self-display?
- 3) The sixth beatitude might read: *O the bliss of those whose motives are absolutely pure, for they will someday be able to see God!*

**Beatitude 7: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.**

- 1) In Hebrew, the word *peace* is *shalom*.
  - a) Never means only the absence of trouble; peace always means everything which makes for a person's highest good.
  - b) In the Bible, peace means not only freedom from all trouble; it means enjoyment of all good.
- 2) The peace that the Bible calls blessed does not come from the evasion of issues; it comes from facing them, dealing with them and conquering them.
  - a) Blessed are those who establish right relationships with other people.
  - b) If possible, live peaceably with all men.
- 3) The seventh beatitude might read: *O the bliss of those who produce right relationships one with another, for they are doing a Godlike work!*

**Beatitude 8: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.