



The Beatitudes 2

Aug 3

INTRODUCTION: What does Christ-like character look like in the Kingdom? The Beatitudes reveal these revolutionary characteristics that mark believers. Moving from our need to being filled we turn now to Beatitudes of action.

CHALLENGE: In one sitting, read the whole sermon often over the coming months.

FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP (Jesus Reign at God's Right Hand, Heb 1:1-4, Glendon Thompson)

- Context of Hebrew
- Main point(s) of message
- In a world that boasts of greatness and demands allegiance, how is the supremacy of God's Son so reassuring?
- Other key takeaways
- Other

READ: Mt 5:7-12

QUESTIONS:

1. Further thoughts as you pondered the first Beatitudes?
2. **How are these characteristics reflected in Jesus' life?**
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
 1. *Mercy, withholding judgement out of compassion.*
2. **Why ought the disciple show mercy? How is this connected to the needs in the first three and the filling in the fourth?**
3. Can you share a time where you extended mercy?
4. Similar to what Jesus will share after the Lord's Prayer (Mt 6:14-15), **what are we promised if we show mercy? When might we need to receive mercy?**
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
5. *Jesus did much to criticize external purity (Mt 23) and spoke much about the heart (Mt 15:19).*

6. **Practically, what does it mean to have a pure heart? How should our present efforts align with our future hope (1 Jn 3:2)?**
7. **In what ways both now and future (Rev 22:4) will God reward those whose hearts are pure? (read "see" think "fellowship").**

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

8. *Peace (shalom) means being at peace (vs. conflict) with God and others. Through the Gospel Jesus gave new meaning to this old Jewish expression (Lk 24:36).*
9. Can we make peace if we aren't first at peace?
10. **More than simply being at peace what does it mean or look like to make peace (think of the Gospel but also beyond)?**
11. *Sons of God is inheritance language, but also adoption (c.f. Hal 3:26). How do those who practice peace-making show they are like their Father?*

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

12. This blessing is only linked to what reason?
13. **Read Jn 15:18. Why are we persecuted when we are like Jesus? If we aren't persecuted in some form what might that mean? (2 Ti 3:12).**
14. **Why do you think the Kingdom belongs to those who are willing to suffer persecution? How is it a searching test? How much coming persecution truly sift the Church?**
[expansion] Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
15. Persecution is more than physical violence. Can you share examples?
16. *Many different motives for persecution are given in the NT but this one is unique. What does it mean to be equated with the prophets of old?*

Next Week: Salt and Light (Mt 5:13-16)