

The Gospel of Matthew

The Beatitudes:
"Norms of the Kingdom"
Matthew 5:3-10

The Beatitudes

Overview

- eight essential characteristics of those who possess the kingdom of heaven
- these characteristics are the opposite of the world's values and pursuit of happiness

The Beatitudes

1. *"poor in spirit"*

- the personal acknowledgment of spiritual bankruptcy before God
- opposite of self-righteousness, self-reliance, self-importance, self-esteem

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2. *"those who mourn"*

- brokenness and sorrow over sin and the effects of sin in the world
- ultimate comfort comes when all the effects of sin are removed; *"no longer be any mourning, or crying or pain"* (Rev. 21:4)

The Beatitudes

3. *"the meek"*

- a humility before God and a gentleness toward others
- does not demand one's rights, does not need to defend oneself, patient when wronged, able to receive correction, teachable

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4. *"hunger and thirst for righteousness"*

- an insatiable longing for conformity to God's will – personal and social
- an ongoing longing that is not fully satisfied until the eternal kingdom

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5. *“the merciful”*

- the feeling and demonstration of compassion to those who are in need (*includes forgiveness*)
- mercifulness results from a deep awareness of our need for God’s mercy – only these will be shown mercy in the day of judgment

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6. *“the pure in heart”*

- those who are sincere, genuine, single-minded in their devotion to God and relations to others
- the opposite of hypocrisy, deceit, and mere outward appearance

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7. *“the peacemakers”*

- those who pursue reconciliation, exercise forgiveness, do not seek revenge, pray for their enemies
- peacemaking is a reflection of God’s own character (“sons of God”)

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8. *“those who are persecuted”*

- persecution for righteousness is evidence of belonging to the kingdom
- persecution for righteousness is an inevitable outcome of belonging to the kingdom

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Conclusion

- these kingdom characteristics are products only of God’s grace and therefore only available to sinners