



Let's Grow Together: Our Christian Duty

Matthew 5:1-12

May 31, 2023

Beatitude inherited its blessedness from the Latin word *beatus*, meaning both "happy" and "blessed." In the Bible, the Beatitudes are a series of eight blessings, such as "Blessed are those poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven." And in 1958 writer Jack Kerouac coined the term "The Beat Generation"

Now let's look at the eight blessing that our Lord Jesus teaches us himself:

1. *The poor in spirit* are happy, But this poverty of spirit is a gracious disposition of soul, by which we are emptied of self, in order to our being filled with Jesus Christ. To be contentedly poor, willing to be emptied of worldly wealth, if God orders that to be our lot; to bring our mind to our condition, when it is a low condition. The kingdom of *grace* is composed of such; they only are fit to be members of Christ's church, which is called *the congregation of the poor* ([Ps 74 19](#)); the kingdom of *glory* is prepared for them.
2. *They that mourn* are happy ([v. 4](#) The poor are accustomed to mourn, the graciously poor mourn graciously, but Christ, who was himself a great mourner, says, Blessed are the *mourners*. *They shall be comforted*. Though perhaps they are not immediately comforted, yet plentiful provision is made for their comfort; light is sown for them; and in heaven, it is certain, *they shall be comforted*, as Lazarus, [Luke 16 25](#).

3. *The meek* are happy ([v. 5](#)) The meek are those who quietly submit themselves to God, to his word and to his rod, who follow his directions, and comply with his designs, and are *gentle towards all men* ([Tit 3 2](#)); who can bear provocation without being inflamed by it; are either silent, or return a soft answer. *They shall inherit the earth*; it is quoted from, and it is almost the only express temporal promise in all the New Testament.

4. *They that hunger and thirst after righteousness* are happy, [v. 6](#) Yet, *blessed are they*, if they suffer these hardships for and with a good conscience; let them hope in God, who will see justice done, right take place, and will deliver the poor from their oppressors. They *shall be filled* with those blessings. God will give them what they desire to complete their satisfaction. It is God only who can *fill a soul*, whose grace and favour are adequate to its just desires; and he will fill those with *grace for grace*, who, in a sense of their own emptiness, have recourse to his fulness. He *fills the hungry* ([Luke 1 53](#)), *satiates* them, .

5. The *merciful* are happy, [v. 7](#). This, like the rest, is a paradox; for the merciful are not taken to be the wisest, nor are likely to be the richest; yet Christ pronounces them *blessed*. We must not only bear our own afflictions patiently, but we must, by Christian sympathy, partake of the afflictions of our brethren; pity must be shown ([Job 6 14](#)), and *bowels of mercy put on*. The merciful shall find with God *sparing* mercy ([ch. 6 14](#)), *supplying* mercy ([Prov 19 17](#)), *sustaining* mercy ([Ps 41 2](#)), mercy in that day ([2 Tim 1 18](#)); may, they shall *inherit the kingdom prepared for them* ([ch. 25 34, 35](#)); whereas *they* shall have *judgment without mercy* (which can be nothing short of *hell-fire*) who have *shown no mercy*.

6. The *pure in heart* are happy ([v. 8](#)) This is the most comprehensive of all the beatitudes; here holiness and happiness are fully described and put together. True religion consists in heart-purity. Those who are inwardly pure, show themselves to be under the power of *pure and undefiled* religion. True Christianity lies in the heart, in the *purity of heart*; the *washing* of that *from wickedness*, [Jer 4 14](#). It is the perfection of the soul's happiness to *see God; seeing him*, as we may by faith in our present state, is a *heaven upon earth*; and seeing him as we shall in the future state, in the *heaven of heaven*. To see him *as he is*, face to face, and no longer through a glass darkly; to see him as ours, and to see him and enjoy him; to see him and be like him, and be satisfied with that likeness ([Ps 17 15](#));
7. The *peace-makers* are those who have: *A peaceable disposition: A peaceable conversation*; Such persons are *blessed*; for they have the satisfaction of *enjoying themselves*, by keeping the peace, and of being truly serviceable to others, by disposing them to peace. *They shall be called the children of God*; it will be an evidence to themselves that they are so; God will own them as such, and herein they will resemble him. He is the God of peace; the Son of God is the Prince of peace; the Spirit of adoption is a Spirit of peace.
8. Those who are *persecuted for righteousness' sake*, are happy. This is the greatest paradox of all, and peculiar to Christianity; and therefore it is put last, and more largely insisted upon than any of the rest, [v. 10-12](#). They are persecuted, hunted, pursued, run down, as noxious beasts are, that are sought for to be destroyed. Nicknames, and names of reproach, are fastened upon them, upon particular persons, and upon the generation of the righteous in the gross. They shall be *recompensed*; Theirs is *the kingdom of heaven*. They have at present a sure title to it, and sweet foretastes of it; and shall ere long be in possession of it. They were in like manner persecuted and abused; and can you expect to go to heaven in a way by yourself? Was not Isaiah

mocked for his *line upon line?* *Elisha* for his *bald head?* Were not all the prophets thus treated? That grace which was *sufficient for them,* to carry them through their sufferings, shall not be *deficient to you.*