

2 Pictures in the Beatitudes

Matthew 5:3-10



Beatitude	As a Picture of our Salvation in Christ	As a Picture of our Ongoing Life in Christ
<p><i>Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</i> Matthew 5:3</p>	<p>Our salvation experience begins by acknowledging our spiritual poverty... we have nothing, our spirit is dead in sin. So, we come to Christ poor in spirit, and He welcomes us into His kingdom... birthing us again in His Spirit and giving us the wealth of His righteousness, peace and joy.</p>	<p>Once we receive Christ, we continue to live life in this broken world, so there are still things that will rob our spirits and leave us needy. Just as we brought our poverty to Jesus for salvation, every day we should continue to acknowledge our need before Him. As we do, He will remind us of our citizenship in His kingdom, and continue to share the wealth of His righteousness, peace and joy with us.</p>
<p><i>Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.</i> Matthew 5:4</p>	<p>Mourning surely accompanies the awareness of our spiritual poverty, because we see the destruction our sin has caused, both for ourselves, and for others. But as we come to Christ, He comforts us through His Spirit Who now lives within us... comforts us with His forgiveness, His redemption, and His promise of eternal life.</p>	<p>Just because we are saved, it doesn't mean there will not still be struggles in this life that bring us to places of mourning. Perhaps we mourn sin that is still having its way in us, or the sin of others that is burdening us, or just the broken and fallen dynamics we live in every day. As we seek Jesus in our grief, His Spirit within us provides continual comfort in deeply personal and creative ways.</p>
<p><i>Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.</i> Matthew 5:5</p>	<p>Meekness is strength under control... in this case, the control of God Himself. Jesus is describing that person who will lean into trusting Him, who will rest and not wrestle, knowing that He alone can save them. And when He does, they inherit the blessings of this earth that He created for them in the first place.</p>	<p>We trusted Jesus to save us, now we also can trust Him to direct our lives. As we meekly lean into His strength with confident faith, we live in a heavenly strength, resting, not wrestling through this life. And He gives us the inheritance of the earth... more than we could ask think or imagine.</p>
<p><i>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.</i> Matthew 5:6</p>	<p>Hungering and thirsting for righteousness certainly describes the person longing for salvation. He comes to the place where he is spiritually discontent and longs for things to be right in his life. For the person who hungers and thirsts, Jesus fills them with His righteousness, satisfying that desire.</p>	<p>The more we walk with Christ and experience the righteousness, peace and joy of His kingdom, we long for these things in greater measure. It is a totally right thing to think there is something more... there is! The more is life lived fully and freely in the righteousness of Christ. He will satisfy our desires with Himself and the abundance of His goodness!</p>

<p><i>Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.</i> Matthew 5:7</p>	<p>Jesus saves us, by His mercy. We certainly don't deserve it. And upon receiving mercy, we now have the opportunity to give mercy. In salvation, there is a flow of mercy... we freely receive it and we will freely give it... and then we receive it some more.</p>	<p>As kingdom of heaven citizens, we live in a flow of mercy. We freely received mercy in salvation, and we will continue to need it every day of our lives. As we freely received mercy, kingdom living is all about freely giving it... thus we are salt and light in this cutthroat world.</p>
<p><i>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.</i> Matthew 5:8</p>	<p>When Jesus cleanses us from sin He purifies our hearts, and that purity of heart sets us free to truly see God and therefore enjoy fellowship with Him.</p>	<p>Purity of heart is a strong value in God's kingdom. However, everyday our hearts will become soiled as we live in this world. So, we need our God to cleanse our hearts and our eyes multiple times a day, that we might see His way and live in it. When we do, our eyes will be clear to see the work and hand of God in our lives, and experience His presence.</p>
<p><i>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.</i> Matthew 5:9</p>	<p>Just as with mercy, what we have received, we give. Jesus made peace with us and now in salvation we have the opportunity to join in that same work, being peacemakers. This marks us as children of God.</p>	<p>Peace is also a strong value in the kingdom of God. When we were at enmity with God because of our sin, He initiated making peace with us and sacrificially made sure that we received it. Now identified as His child, it only makes sense that we would become peacemakers too. So we live day to day, making peace, initiating it, and being willing to sacrifice for it.</p>
<p><i>Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men cast insults at you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely on account of Me. Rejoice and be glad for your reward in heaven is great, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.</i> Matthew 5:10-11</p>	<p>When we receive salvation, the enemy launches a persecution attack upon us, and as we stand firm in our salvation and righteousness, this will come in many forms. But even still, Jesus assures us of our place in His kingdom and promises a great reward in heaven for any suffering we endure for His name.</p>	<p>The kingdom of this dark world will surely fight against those who pursue Christ and His righteousness. Once we receive Jesus, there will be persecution. But we can rejoice, because we are children of God, living in the kingdom of God and knowing that one day we will receive a great reward in heaven. This knowing gives us perseverance and hope and produces thankfulness for all who have gone before us who also endured persecution.</p>