
NOTES

Overview of the Beatitudes

The poor in spirit are ones who recognize they have nothing to offer God in exchange for His favor, and so in faith cast themselves unconditionally on His mercy for salvation. These people are reconciled to God and brought under the benevolent rule of King Jesus.

The mourners are the ones who clearly see and deeply grieve the damage their sin, and the sin of others, has caused. These people receive the assurance that they are forgiven and redeemed, that God is working for the redemption of all people, and that one day He will make everything right.

The meek are those who use their personal power to benefit others, even those who are hostile toward them. These people are granted by God a greater influence in this world and will help Him rule in the next.

The hungry for righteousness are those who zealously work to please God in everything. These people will overcome sinful habits and so become increasingly satisfied with who they are and how they are living their lives.

The merciful are those who have compassion for people suffering and are compelled to bring a measure of relief. These people will experience God alleviating their own suffering.

The pure in heart are those who routinely overcome sin to do the right thing and are undivided in their loyalty to Jesus. These people will come to correctly understand God, see Him at work in the world, and uniquely experience His goodness and power.

The peacemakers are those who share the gospel and help people place their faith in Jesus, while pursuing peace in their relationships and promoting peace among others. These people represent God's heart well, and enjoy better relationships with others while experiencing the peace of God in their hearts.

The persecuted for righteousness are those who are injured because they lovingly do the right thing. These people receive confirmation that they are being faithful members of God's kingdom and they will be rewarded, both in this life and in the next.

The flow of the Beatitudes

Recognizing your depravity drives you to cast yourself unconditionally on God's mercy.

You begin to see the damage your sin causes and it breaks your heart. In your brokenness you surrender your personal power to God for Him to use for His purposes, and you become passionate to please God in everything so you are no longer a source of damage in the world. You begin to alleviate the suffering of people afflicted by sin, doing so out of undivided loyalty to Jesus and love for people. You work to reestablish peace between people and God, people and yourself, and people with each other. And you keep doing the right things even when misunderstood and damaged for doing so.

A spiritual journey that began with us recognizing what awful sinners we are and the damage we have done in the world ends with us being damaged by sinners for lovingly doing the right things in an effort to see them saved. So who do we end up being like?