

# The Sermon on the Mount: Beatitudes

*Matthew 5:3-12*

## “Blessed are...”

- Jesus begins His teaching with 9 expressions of blessing
  - Μακάριος (*makarios*) (adj): blessed, privileged
    - It is not an emotional state, but rather a perspective
- As Jesus’ disciples, we need to have the proper perspective on our lives and the world around us

## The Blessed who Lack (v. 3-6)

- The first four Beatitudes are a call for perspective to those who lack in various ways
- The Poor: Those who lack economically (Lk 6:20)
  - “in spirit”: Those who understand their spiritual poverty
  - The promise: A place in God’s Kingdom
- The Mourners: Those who have lost loved ones or experience great sadness
  - The promise: Comfort
- The Meek/Humble: Those who know their limitations
  - Those who put others’ needs before themselves
  - The promise: Inheritors of the earth
- The Hungry & Thirsty: Those who lack provision (Lk 6:21a)
  - “for righteousness”: Those who desire godliness
  - The promise: Satisfaction

## The Blessed Children (v. 7-9)

- The next three are all characteristics of God which we are called to emulate
- The Merciful: Those who show mercy habitually
  - Mercy: To be greatly concerned about the needs of others, to show compassion
  - The promise: To receive mercy from God
  - This reflects the character of Jesus (Heb 2:17-18)
- The Pure in Heart: Those who have right motives and intents (Ps 24:4-5)
  - The promise: To see God face to face
- The Peacemakers: Those who work toward reconciliation
  - The promise: To be sons of God
  - Just as Jesus has reconciled us to God, we are to work on reconciling others to God and one another (2 Cor 5:18-20)

## The Persecuted (v. 10-11)

- Jesus ends the blessings with a wakeup call that living this way will lead to persecution
  - This includes insults, falsities, hardships, and even death
- This should be expected, since this is how people treat those who speak and act differently from the world
  - Like the OT prophets & Jesus Himself
- The promise: A place in God’s kingdom

## So What?

- We are to live as citizens of God’s kingdom here and now

- Reflecting the character and attitude of Jesus to those around us
- How are we doing?
- From what do we need to confess & repent?

**Meditation Verse:** *Matthew 5:6*