

# The Beatitudes

## MATTHEW 5:1-12

Based on the sermon by Dr. Paul L. Tan

### DISCUSS

The Lord Jesus used the word *blessing* many different times in the Bible. In Matthew 5:1-12, Jesus taught the people how they can have eight different kinds of “blessings.” From Jesus’ sermon on the Beatitudes we draw out how to receive these blessings in our Christian life.

#### 1st Beatitude (v. 2-3)

Jesus is not talking about being “poor in money,” but about the “poor in spirit.” What did Jesus mean when He said blessed are the “poor in spirit?” When is a person in this condition? How do you see that God is really enough for all your needs? Why should you not be afraid to be “poor in spirit?”

#### 2nd Beatitude (v. 4)

This beatitude has two meanings in the Christian life. First, it is to sorrow for one’s sins, and second, to sorrow over life’s bitter experiences. Have you ever mourned for somebody or something you lost? What should you remember when you experience great or big losses? How would you feel blessed in the midst of that sorrow?

#### 3rd Beatitude (v. 5)

The word *meeek* has 2 meanings in Greek. One is to be like a domesticated animal. It also has the idea of sincere humility, not prideful and haughty. Why is it hard to see meekness in today’s society? How is it in contrast to Christ’s service (Matthew 20:26-28). How would you like your life to describe meekness as you live for the Lord?

#### 4th Beatitude (v. 6)

Jesus is talking about a starving and thirsting man, longing for something... longing for righteousness. When you put Christ the Lamb of God over and above you, then God calls you “righteous.” How would you explain righteousness? Why does it take real effort to be a righteous person? What happens when you “hunger and thirst after righteousness?” What happens when you are righteous?

#### 5th Beatitude (v. 7)

Being merciful is not just showing pity. It is to put yourself in the shoes of the other person to understand his feelings and to help that person. How do you think Jesus wants you to show mercy to others? How can you understand another person with sympathizing kindness as He wants you to?

#### 6th Beatitude (v. 8)

To be “pure in heart” means your heart doesn’t seek anything other than the Lord Jesus. It means you take Him as the unique goal of your life. Why do you need to be pure in heart? What does 2 Corinthians 7:1 say so that you can be pure in heart? Share how you have submitted and surrendered to God’s will. What was the result when you did?

#### 7th Beatitude (v. 9)

Peace-lovers tend to love peace at any cost, to cover over sin, to have many gray areas in Christian life and leadership; to easily excuse sin. While peace-maker means to make peace—prayerfully using counseling, reasoning, encouragement, and positive actions with people, and seeing God touching hearts and lives. How will you be known when you “make peace?” As God’s child, how can you be a peace-maker?

#### 8th Beatitude (v. 10)

Jesus was very frank and honest with His followers. He told His disciples that if they follow Him, they would be persecuted. How do Christians experience persecutions because of their faith? What are the two added blessings when you are persecuted for righteousness in verses 11-12? What’s your response that the more you suffer for Christ, the more your eternal rewards are piling up?

## **REFLECT**

Jesus has given us the eight keys to a blessed Christian life: to be poor in Spirit, to be comforted in mourning, to be meek and humble, to hunger after righteousness, to be merciful, to be pure in heart, to be a peacemaker, and to be persecuted for righteousness. Is your Christian life blessed? In what way?

## **PRAY**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the clear instructions on how my Christian life could be blessed. It may be hard to follow all of them, but thank You that through the Holy Spirit, it is very possible. After all, You will not give instructions if You know that it is impossible for me to do them. Please help me to stop making excuses, but to follow You because through You I am able to live a blessed Christian life. In Jesus' name. Amen.