



- » The point of the Beatitudes is not to make us feel guilty
- » They are statements of congratulations for being found in Jesus Christ
- » The Beatitudes shape the reality of who we are becoming in Jesus Christ

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.

Matthew 5:7

- » God is a God of mercy – Exodus 34:6 “Moses & God”
- » Mercy is not an attitude but an action
- » Story of the unforgiving servant (Matthew 18:23-35)
- » As a forgiven one – forgive others

Imitate God

- » We are called to imitate God (Ephesians 5:1-2)
- » “Every person needs more love than he or she deserves” (Peter van Breemen)

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Matthew 5:8

Heart

- » Describes the inner person
- » The seat of the will

Purity

- » Not just a focus on morality but integrity before God
- » Not double-minded (James 1:8)
- » To will one thing
- » 'Purity' translates 'clean'

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?

Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, Who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation. Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Psalm 24:3-6

Purity enables us to 'see God':

- » Abraham (Genesis 10)
- » Moses (Deuteronomy 34:10)
- » Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1,5)

"out of the abundance of the heart" (Luke 6:45)

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called
children of God.

Matthew 5:9

Peacemakers

- » This word only used here in the New Testament
- » Speaks to a working for peace – bringing wholeness to our world

To make peace is to engage actively in bringing God's redemptive purposes to bear in all of our broken society.

Robert A. Guelich

Bridge Building

In a world of building walls we are called to build bridges

- » Matthew 5:43-44 – a call to love our enemies
- » Seeking to build harmony in relationships

The Promise

We will be called sons and daughters of God

- » We are named by God as his children (no greater promise!)

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness...

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:10-12

- » This Beatitude speaks to a world which protects its vested interests
- » A self-centred world which ultimately is passing away

'Justicia'

- » Seeking both justice and righteousness
- » Being critiqued for doing the right thing
- » First century Christians faced much of this response – not understood and were rejected

Perseverance in faith through troubled times is commended

- » Even as the prophets experienced (v12b)
- » Keep looking to Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-4)

God is apprehended only if there be action and response on our part. It demands time and patience, patience with ourselves, a waiting for God. It is not a moment, but a cumulative process. Each day we must come to Him, and wait, allowing Him slowly to deposit His presence in us.

Edward J. Farrell