

## A Change of Heart

When Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount, He included what we call The Beatitudes (recorded in Matthew 5: 3-10). The Beatitudes propose a change in attitude that was contrary to what was generally accepted at the time. The Beatitudes are still relevant today. The Beatitudes are a series of blessings revealing values that lead to salvation.

- We are told that “Blessed are the **poor in spirit.**” It is Jesus’ way of saying we are in need, and humility is the understanding that all our blessings originate from the love of God for us.
- Then, Jesus tells us that we are blessed if we **mourn.** While it is common to mourn the passing of friends and family, this is broader. It refers to mourning our sinful nature and our need for repentance.
- We are told the **meek** will be blessed. This doesn’t mean for us to be “wishy washy,” but instead, to surrender control to God. We should not oppose God’s way, but to seek His righteousness in all we do. Submitting to the will of God will bring peace and tranquility in this world and the next.
- We are told to **hunger and thirst.** When you hunger and thirst, it is human nature to desire food and drink to satisfy us. Instead, Jesus is referring to a perpetual appetite for virtue and justice. We yearn for more of God and His presence in our lives.
- Jesus will bless the **merciful,** that we might forgive others, as God has forgiven us (Luke 6:36).
- Jesus will bless the **pure in heart,** free of selfish purposes and self-seeking motives.
- We are told to be **Peacekeepers,** that we love others, sharing peace and friendship with others.
- And finally, we are warned that we will **be persecuted** because of our beliefs and will need to endure injustices. Your reward is in Heaven. This was prophetic, as Jesus and His disciples were persecuted because of their beliefs. We will be persecuted as well.



Max Lucado calls the Beatitudes a “reconstruction of our hearts,” that we seek God’s righteousness in how we live our lives. God’s ways are directly opposite that of our world.

Each of the eight statements begins with the words, “Blessed are,” and continues with God’s divine favor that will be bestowed on those who possess the character qualities. It is God’s reward for those who carry out His will.

- The poor in spirit will enter the Kingdom of God.
- Those who mourn will be comforted.
- Those who hunger and thirst will be filled with the satisfaction of our soul’s desire.
- Those who are merciful will receive mercy.
- The meek will inherit the earth. (Revelation 21:7 says God’s children will inherit all things.)
- People who are pure in heart will see God.
- The peacemakers will be called Children of God.
- And, those who are persecuted will receive their reward in Heaven.

*Max Lucado's quote is from Grace for the Moment, Volume 1.*