

2—The Beatitudes (part 2)

Matthew 5:3-12; Luke 6:17-26



1. In the final Beatitude, Jesus promises those who are “*persecuted for righteousness’ sake*” will have a “*great*” reward. In our last class, we focused on the character of the citizens of God’s kingdom. Yet, write down the promises Jesus makes to those citizens in verses 3-12.

2. What is the first word used in Psalm 1? What is the first word John uses in Revelation 1:3? How many times is that same word used in Matthew 5:3-12? How does look phrase this level of happiness in Luke 6:23?

3. In Matthew 5:3, Jesus promises “the kingdom of heaven.” In what sense might this be a present blessing (see Matthew 16:18; Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:9), and a future blessing (Matthew 25:34; 2 Peter 1:10-11; 3:13)?

4. In Matthew 5:4, Jesus promises “*those who mourn...they shall be comforted.*” In what sense might this be a present comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3-5), and in what sense might it be a future comfort (Revelation 21:1-4)?

5. In Matthew 5:5, Jesus promises “*the meek...they shall inherit the earth.*” This phrase is a quote from Psalm 37. In what sense, might this be a present earthly blessing (see Matthew 6:33; Ecclesiastes 5:19-6:2), and in what way might this be a future promise (2 Peter 3:10-13)?

6. In Matthew 5:6, Jesus promises those who *“hunger and thirst for righteousness...they shall be filled.”* What is the source of God’s saving *“righteousness”* (Romans 1:16-17; Philippians 3:8-9)? When we feel *“self-righteous”* how will this affect us seeking Christ?

7. In Matthew 5:7, Jesus promises *“the merciful...they shall obtain mercy.”* When we receive God’s *“mercy”* what ought we be willing to do for others (cp. Romans 5:9; Matthew 18:23-35; 25:31-46)? What will a lack of mercy in our lives lead to with us (James 2:13)?

8. In Matthew 5:8, Jesus promises the *“pure in heart...they shall see God.”* How, in a sense, was it possible for us to see God when Jesus walked the earth (John 14:6-7; Hebrews 1:1-3)? When will we *“see God”* in the future (Revelation 21:3; 22:3-4)?

9. In Matthew 5:9, Jesus promises the *“peacemakers...they shall be called sons of God.”* In the context of the Sermon on the Mount, what else does Jesus say about making *“peace”* (5:23-25; 5:43-44)? What are some things we can do to encourage others to make peace with all men (Romans 12:18; Hebrews 12:14; James 3:18)?

10. In Matthew 5:10-12, Jesus promises those persecuted *“for righteousness’ sake...great is your reward in heaven.”* How encouraging is it to know that a life of faithfulness may lead to earthly poverty, but can end in unimaginable wealth (Matthew 19:21, 28-30; Acts 5:41; Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17)?