

Discipleship: The Beatitudes

The Sermon on the Mount is the largest collection of Jesus' teachings given at one time. The first section is often called the Beatitudes. Matthew's account contains eight blessings from God (some say nine if you split the last blessings into two parts) based on individual attitudes. The Beatitudes are approaches to life that form the basis of real happiness.

Write out the meaning of each of the Beatitudes and how it applies to your life. Then find and list other events and teachings in the Gospels where Jesus expounded on these attitudes. Use these Scriptures to explore how you can develop each attitude in your life.

1. Matthew 5:3: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." _____

EXAMPLE: Matthew 5:3: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

I will be blessed by God when I accept my spiritual poverty before Him, completely acknowledge Christ's sacrifice for my sins, commit my life to God's purpose, and live without self-righteousness.

Other places where Jesus deals with the differences between being "poor in spirit" and self-righteousness:

Luke 18:9-14: I must guard my mind not to look down on others by looking at my good deeds and have more of a poor spirit before God like the tax collector. Then I will be truly forgiven and justified and experience the joy of God's presence in my life.

Luke 16:14-18: I must not try to justify my own actions and beliefs instead of accepting and obeying God's instructions.

2. Matthew 5:4: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." _____

3. Matthew 5:5: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." _____

4. Matthew 5:6: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled." _____

5. Matthew 5:7: “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.” _____

6. Matthew 5:8: “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” _____

7. Matthew 5:9: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” _____

8: Matthew 5:10-12: “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” _____

How does this tie in with verses 13-16? _____