

## A Reflection on the Beatitudes

I came across this modern day 'Beatitudes' and thought that they would match up nicely with the original lesson taught to us by Our Lord during the Sermon on the Mount. The more detailed description of the 'blessed' is helpful I think, though the language is not as beautiful.

Matt. 5:1

When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.

Matt. 5:2

He began to teach them, saying:

Matt. 5:3

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who are convinced of their basic dependency on God, whose lives are emptied of all that doesn't matter, those for whom the riches of this world just aren't that important. The kingdom of God is theirs.

Matt. 5:4

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Matt. 5:5

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are those who know that all they are is a gift from God, and so they can be content with their greatness and their smallness, knowing themselves and being true to themselves. For they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Matt. 5:6

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are those who wear compassion like a garment, those who have learned how to find themselves by losing themselves in another's sorrow. For they too shall be satisfied.

Matt. 5:7

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the merciful, those who remember how much has been forgiven them, and are able to extend this forgiveness into the lives of others. For they too shall receive God's mercy.

Matt. 5:8

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are those whose hearts are free and simple, those who have smashed all false images and are seeking honestly for truth. For they shall see God.

Matt. 5:9

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

Blessed are the creators of peace, those who build roads that unite rather than walls that divide, those who bless the world with the healing power of their presence. For they shall be called sons and daughters of God.

Matt. 5:10

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those whose love has been tried, like gold, in the furnace and found to be precious, genuine and lasting, those who have lived their belief out loud, no matter what the cost or pain. For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matt. 5:11

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me.

Matt. 5:12

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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