

Beatitudes -- Matthew 5:3-12

with William Barclay's translation

v. 3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

O the bliss of those who have realized their own utter helplessness, and who have put their whole trust in God, for thus alone can they render to God that perfect obedience which will make them citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven!

v. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

O the bliss of those whose hearts are broken for the world's suffering and for their own sin, for out of their sorrow they will find the joy of God!

v. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

O the bliss of those who are always angry at the right time and never angry at the wrong time, who have every instinct, impulse and passion under control because they themselves are God-controlled, who have the humility to realize their own ignorance and their own weakness, for such people can indeed rule the world!

v. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

O the bliss of those who long for total righteousness as the starving long for food, and those perishing of thirst long for water, for they will be truly satisfied!

v. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

O the bliss of those who can get right inside other people, until they can see with their eyes, think with their thoughts, feel with their feelings, for those who do that will find others do the same for them, and will know that that is what God in Jesus Christ has done!

v. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

O the bliss of those whose motives are absolutely pure, for they will some day be able to see God!

v. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God!

O the bliss of those who produce right relationships with one another, for they are doing Godlike work!

v. 10-12 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.