

The Teachings of Jesus: The Beatitudes Matthew 5:1-7 (p.888)

In the world of men we find nothing approaching the virtues of which Jesus spoke in the opening words of the famous Sermon on the Mount. Instead of poverty of spirit we find the rankest kind of pride; instead of mourners we find pleasure seekers; instead of meekness, arrogance... *Pursuit of God*, A.W. Tozer

Blessing does not necessarily mean that you'll be happy and prosperous. Happiness is often dependent on circumstances that vary. In contrast, to be blessed is to know the deeper joy and contentment of God's love and salvation.

1. Blessed are the Poor in Spirit.

Matthew 18:3- "I assure you," He said, "unless you are converted and become like children, you will *never* enter the kingdom of heaven."

Everyone needs to appropriate this promise of salvation in the kingdom of heaven.

2. Blessed are those who Mourn.

From a spiritual perspective, all mourning is related to sin brokenness.

Jesus looked over Jerusalem and wept because of her sin-brokenness.

When we come to understand our sinfulness and when we are *brokenhearted* over it, we are ready to plead with God for mercy. And because of His amazing grace, we will find- not condemnation- but comfort; that is Salvation!

3. Blessed are the Meek.

It's not a very popular descriptor.

Consider Jesus. Meekness isn't weakness. It is submitting to God's control.

4. Blessed are those who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness.

"Being hungry, and then being satisfied at the table, is celebrated the world over, and in fact the favorite image for the kingdom in the message of Jesus is of a banquet, to which all who come hungry are satisfied."
-Pastor Robert Meyers

In salvation, Christ gives us His righteousness and we find a satisfaction that surpasses our expectations.

5. God blesses the Merciful.

Mercy, by definition, is not earned. Rather, it is given where it is not merited.

We *desire* to receive mercy from others.
We NEED to receive mercy from God.

Matthew 6:14-15

Our forgiveness of others- or our mercy toward others- is not the means to our salvation, but the evidence of it.

CONCLUSION :

Does anyone ever see God showing through me?