

**The Beatitudes (2)**

Passages: Mt 5:1–12

*Memory Verse*

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”  
(Matthew 6:33)

<b>Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]</b>	<b>Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]</b>	<b>Good Work [Behavior]</b>
Understand the full meaning of the last four beatitudes.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. God is gentle and meek.</li><li>2. God is merciful.</li><li>3. God is pure.</li><li>4. God is peace.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Seek after the fruit of the Holy Spirit.</li><li>2. Rely on God for endurance, strength, and wisdom to live out the Beatitudes.</li></ol>

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy
- B. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God
- C. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God
- D. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** These eight promises are blessings of the kingdom of God—they are a part of God, and they all belong to the kingdom.

### **The Beatitudes**

In the previous lesson, we studied the first four beatitudes. Today, we will continue the teachings of the Beatitudes and learn about the last four.

Let's read Matthew 5:1–12.

#### **A. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.**

##### **Meaning**

In Greek, “mercy” carries the concept of having compassion and feeling pity for others. God is willing to withhold our punishment out of mercy. Jesus taught in Matthew 9:13, “But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” When we recite the Lord’s Prayer, we say, “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors” (Mt 6:12). When we show mercy to others, our heavenly Father will show mercy to us (Mt 18:21–35).

##### **Question: How do we become merciful?**

Becoming merciful begins with seeing and acknowledging our own flaws. We must grieve over our sins and hunger for God’s mercy and righteousness. Understanding our own flaws and seeing the same in others helps us become more compassionate, and in turn, more merciful.

##### **Life Application**

A wonderful example of this is seen in Luke 10:30–34, where the Samaritan showed mercy to the man who had been robbed and beaten. God wants us to be like the Samaritan by having compassion and mercy towards those who are in need, whether it be a spiritual, emotional, physical, or financial need (Mt 18:27–33). Are you a merciful person? Ask yourself the following questions:

1. When you think of those in need of help, who first comes to mind?  
We need to show mercy to those who are not accepted. We can: feed the hungry; give water to the thirsty; clothe the naked; shelter the homeless; comfort the imprisoned; and visit the sick (Mt 8:10–13; 25:35–37; Jn 11:19).
2. Has anybody offended or hurt you? How can you proactively show mercy this week?  
The Bible said we need to do good to those who hurt us (Mt 5:44; 6:14–15).
3. Who is a person in your life that needs forgiveness?  
Do you have a past wound or grudge that you have held on to? How are you going to show mercy to that person?
4. Have you given others a second chance?  
Giving people a second chance is showing mercy and compassion instead of being judgmental (Mt 18:23–35).
5. Have you comforted anyone who is in sorrow or in doubt?  
It is easier to ignore or neglect than to care for those in distress. But God desires that we exercise our godly love by caring for the needs and weaknesses of others (Mt 25:37–40).

#### **B. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**

##### **Meaning**

The Bible said that those who are pure of heart can see God. To be pure of heart means to be free of selfish desires and evil intentions. We cannot merely appear clean on the outside and believe that we

are pure. Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart (1 Sam 16:7) and wants us to examine our thoughts and feelings. “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies” (Mt 15:19). God wants to start with our hearts because from the heart stem all the issues of life.

**Question: Why can the pure in heart see God?**

Those who are pure can see God because God is holy. 1 Samuel 2:2 mentions: “No one is holy like the LORD, for there is none besides You.” Hosea 11:9 further mentions: “For I am God, and not man, the Holy One in your midst.” God’s divine nature is holiness, so those who see Him must also be holy.

Being pure in heart involves having a simple heart toward God. A pure heart has no hypocrisy, no guile, and no hidden motives. A pure heart is marked by its transparency—it is open, with nothing to hide—and an uncompromising desire to please God in all things.

**Life Application**

**How can we be pure in heart?**

Jesus came to save us because we have unclean hearts that need to be purified. Having a pure heart is a prerequisite to seeing God. Hebrews 12:14 says, “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.” So how do we pursue holiness?

1. Ask God to create a clean heart in you (Ps 51:10), and He will purify you (Acts 15:9).
2. “Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully” (Ps 24:3–4). According to this verse, a pure heart is one that:
  - a. Does not have falsehood, but pursues truth, and
  - b. Does not have deceit.
3. Do not divide your heart between the world and God, but focus your heart entirely on God alone. James 4:8 exhorts us to “cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” This concept of double-mindedness is further explained in James 4:4: “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

**C. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.**

**Meaning**

John 1:12 says, “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.” Furthermore, Galatians 3:26 tell us that we “are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” We become children of God by believing in Him and having faith in Him. This beatitude teaches us that the sons of God are peacemakers and that they should be the channel of blessings for making peace between God and men (Eph 2:13–18).

**Question: Why is a peacemaker called a Son of God?**

Isaiah 9:6 says that God’s name “will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” But why Prince of Peace? After the relationship between God and man was destroyed due to sin, there was no peace among men. But Colossians 1:20 explains that it pleased God “to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.” He sent Jesus Christ to make peace, and when He was born in

Bethlehem, a multitude of heavenly hosts joined the angel in praising God, saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men” (Lk 2:13–14).

A sinful man cannot please God except through Jesus, the Prince of Peace. The Lord Jesus preached peace to all men (Acts 10:36; Eph 2:17), and as Micah prophesied, “And this One shall be peace” (Mic 5:5). He was nailed on the cross for us, and through His blood, we can reconcile with God and have peace with Him. Through the redemption of Jesus, we received the adoption of sons (Gal 4:5; Eph 1:5); God is a peace-loving God, and as His children, we need to pursue what He pursues. We must be peacemakers, willing to make peace the way Jesus did.

### **Life Application**

#### **How can we become peacemakers?**

1. Love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.  
Read Matthew 5:43–45. Please underline the first part of verse 45: “that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.” We must love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us to be called sons of God.
2. Learn to forgive.  
Read Colossians 3:12–15. It is easy to hold on to grudges against our parents, siblings, brethren in church, or even against other people in school. But we are God’s children, His elect and chosen people, and as such, we must learn to forgive others, because God Himself already forgave us of all our sins. Whatever grudges we hold, large or small, we must learn to let go of them in order to become peacemakers and true sons of God.
3. Bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit.  
We need to be led by the Spirit because one of the manifestations of the fruit of the Holy Spirit is peace (Gal 5:22–23). So, we must bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit in order to be peacemakers.

In all, peacemakers pursue reconciliation and harmony. We must build, not burn, bridges.

#### **D. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

##### **Meaning**

2 Timothy 3:12 tells us, “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” If we have decided to put God first in our family, work, school, and other aspects of life, sooner or later we will meet some form of opposition. An earlier beatitude states, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.” In this context, practicing righteousness means leading a godly life by being merciful, pure, and peaceable. But these practices often lead to persecution.

##### **Question: Why is the kingdom of heaven the reward?**

When our faith is tested through persecution, we will suffer, but at the same time, the reward is great.

*For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

(2 Cor 4:17–18)

Our light affliction will transform into an eternal weight of glory beyond compare. Thus, we must be glad and joyful when we are persecuted for righteousness’ sake. “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great

is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Mt 5:12). Jesus longs for us to seek our treasure in heaven, not on earth, just as He did when He “for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross” (Heb 12:2). Likewise, we can also endure for the sake of our reward in heaven.

### Life Application

#### What do we do when we are persecuted for righteousness?

1. Do not fear (Ps 56:4, 11)  
Remember that God is always with us. No matter what we are enduring, He is right there beside us, and there is none greater or more powerful than our God. Therefore, there is nothing for us to fear.
2. Rejoice (Rom 5:3)  
When they were imprisoned and later beaten for sharing the gospel, Peter and his fellow apostles “departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name” (Acts 5:41). The tribulations God permits in our lives are opportunities for us to glorify God and to grow in faith.
3. Endure (1 Cor 10:13)  
God is faithful, and He has promised that He will never make us endure more than we can bear. He knows our strengths and our weaknesses. Knowing this, take courage and endure whatever persecutions and tribulations that take place in our lives, because endurance will come with its own reward (1 Cor 9:24–25; Jas 1:12).

*[B]ut rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.*

(1 Pet 4:13–14)

### Check for Understanding

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1. **What does righteousness refer to in this context?** Righteousness refers to the truth of God. When we thirst for righteousness, we eagerly seek after God and His truth.
2. **How can we live out righteousness?** We can live out righteousness by being peacemakers, seeking purity, and showing mercy to others.
3. **Why can the pure in heart see God?** Those who are pure in heart can see God because purity leads to holiness and God is holy.
4. **How can we be pure in heart?** Ask God to create in us a clean heart. Once our heart has been purified, we must determine to pursue only truthfulness and maintain a daily walk with God, focusing on Him only from day to day.
5. **Why must we be peacemakers?** God is a peace-loving God, as proven by the death of His Son. Therefore, as His children, we should also pursue what God pursues.
6. **What do we do when we are persecuted for righteousness’ sake?** Do not fear, but rejoice and endure instead, knowing that for our suffering we will be greatly rewarded in heaven.

### Memory Verse

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“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”  
(Matthew 6:33)

### **Meanings**

The things that matter to God should always take priority over things of this world. His kingdom and His righteousness are of greater value than any material riches. It is God’s command that we are to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. In return, God promises to take care of all our needs.

What do we devote our time, money, and energy to today? God does not want us to neglect our daily duties as Christians in this world to pursue material things. How we live and the ways we live matter to God. Are you seeking Him in full obedience? Or are you seeking things that will perish? Where your heart is, there your treasure will be. Do you treasure God’s kingdom above all?

### **Conclusion**

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Each beatitude reminds us of the blessings of eternity, if only we are willing to change ourselves and pursue each one. Jesus is showing us that the pathway to heaven is laid out before us if we constantly live out these beatitudes.

1. *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy*—constantly show mercy.
2. *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God*—seek God with purity and single-mindedness.
3. *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God*—pray for our enemies and those who persecute us; bear the fruit of peace.
4. *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*—when persecuted, endure, rejoice, and do not fear.

## Lesson 4 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What are the Beatitudes?

*The Beatitudes are the blessings and promises God gives to those who seek after Him.*

2. Pick three of the beatitudes. For each write:

- What it is,
- What it means, and
- What it is teaching us about how to live our lives.
  - a. *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven—empty our cup and open ourselves before God.*
  - b. *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted—have heartfelt sorrow and confess to God with a broken and contrite spirit.*
  - c. *Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth—be humble and gentle.*
  - d. *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled—seek God with all our heart.*
  - e. *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy—constantly show mercy.*
  - f. *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God—seek God with purity and single-mindedness.*
  - g. *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God—pray for our enemies and those who persecute us; bear the fruit of peace.*
  - h. *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven—when persecuted, endure, rejoice, and do not fear.*