

Name: _____

Date: _____

THE BEATITUDES (1)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:3)

Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	Understand the full meaning behind the first four beatitudes.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	God is gentle, meek, and righteous.
<i>Good Work</i>	Seek after the fruit of the Holy Spirit and rely on God for the endurance, strength, and wisdom we need to live according to the Beatitudes.

The Beatitudes (Mt 5:1–12)

The Beatitudes received their name from the Latin word *beatus* meaning “blessed.” The Greek term means “happy, fortunate.” The Beatitudes are more than just a set of lessons. They are a promise of true joy, an invitation to live according to their teachings, and an assurance of the blessings to come for those who seek and follow God.

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

The word “poor” here does not refer to a lack of material possessions, but to our spiritual attitude. The poor in spirit are those who are humble before God, never arrogant or self-righteous. Whatever their physical state or riches, they seek Jesus with a broken heart and a contrite spirit. The poor in spirit have laid aside their personal desires and seek a deeper relationship with God instead.

- *How does one become “poor in spirit”? Have you presented before God a spirit that is poor?*

B. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Those who mourn are those who are contrite in heart and who mourn the sins of this world. But it is not a simple matter of being upset over sin; mourning that leads to repentance will be remembered by God and blessed (2 Cor 7:10). Those who truly mourn over sins will find reconciliation with God (2 Cor 5:18).

- *How does one become blessed through mourning? How can we truly mourn over our sins?*

C. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

The Greek word for meek, *praeis*, refers to mildness, gentleness of spirit, or humility. The meek have a spirit of self-control and always speak gracious words (Col 4:6). To be meek is not a weakness, but a strength. It is exemplified in the tranquil stillness of a heart before God—a heart that is at rest whether in times of hardship or plenty. A meek heart is one that truly trusts in God and walks daily with Jesus.

- *How does one become meek? What does God want us to learn?*

D. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Righteousness refers to what is right in the eyes of God, so those who hunger and thirst for it are those eager to follow God’s will and truth, who seek the fulfillment of God’s kingdom. God delights in those who seek His kingdom and His righteousness. The closer we are to Him, the more sensitive we become to the unrighteousness in the world, and the more we hunger for righteousness.

- *How do we make sure we have this hunger and thirst for righteousness?*

