

Name: _____

Date: _____

THE BEATITUDES (2)

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

Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	Understand the full meaning behind the last four beatitudes.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	God is gentle, meek, merciful, and pure. God is peace.
<i>Good Work</i>	Seek after the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Rely on God for endurance, strength, and wisdom to live out 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 merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

In Greek, “mercy” carries the concept of having compassion and feeling pity for others. God is willing to withhold our punishment out of mercy, and He desires that we also show mercy to those around us (Mt 9:13). When we show mercy to others, our heavenly Father will show mercy to us. But to become merciful, we must begin by recognizing and understanding our own flaws.

- *How has God shown mercy towards us? How do we become merciful?*

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

Man may look at the outward appearance, but God looks within (1 Sam 16:7); merely appearing clean on the outside is not true purity, which stems from the heart, and thus from our thoughts and feelings. From the heart stem all issues of life, so in order to become truly pure, that is where we must begin. A pure heart has nothing to hide, but has an uncompromising desire to please God in all things.

- *Why do the pure in heart see God? How can we be pure in heart?*

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

God sent Jesus Christ to make peace because He is a peace-loving God. We are His adopted children (Gal 4:5; Eph 1:5), and as His children, we need to pursue what He pursues. We must be peacemakers, willing to make peace the way Jesus did by loving our enemies, forgiving our neighbors, and bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

- *In what way is God a peacemaker? How can we become peacemakers?*

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

As long as we choose to place God first in our lives, we will experience some form of opposition, whether it be from friends, family, or some other aspect of our lives (2 Tim 3:12). Any person who chooses to lead a godly life will often experience persecution, but God has promised that our temporary afflictions will transform into an eternal glory beyond all compare (2 Cor 4:17–18). Thus, knowing what has been promised us, we can endure persecution with joy, not fear (Mt 5:12).

- *Why is the kingdom of heaven the reward? How do we withstand persecution?*

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Lesson 4 Homework Assignment

The Beatitudes (2)

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Matthew 6:33):

1. What are the Beatitudes?

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.

b.

c.

d.