

I. We Are Sheltering People (7)

**"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."**

**Mercy = compassion for people in need, which always leads to intervention on their behalf**

**A. Merciful attitude - As those who understand the mercy given to us, we are eager to release mercy to others**

**B. Merciful actions**

**Helpless people need mercy - those who are truly unable to deliver themselves**

**Hurting people need mercy - those who do not see clearly through their pain**

**Headstrong people need mercy - those who frustrate us with their pride need our patient commitment to help them**

**Hardened people need mercy - those who refuse to acknowledge their need and resist our attempts to assist them**

II. We Are Sincere People (8)

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

**A. Internal aspect - pure hearts are simple and sincere, devoid of deception and unnecessary complexity**

**B. Relational aspect - pure hearts are true and transparent - you know what you are getting when interacting with pure-hearted people**

**C. Missional aspect - pure hearts are selfless and sacrificial - seeking the good of others, pure-hearted people are here to serve**

**D. Moral aspect - pure hearts are contrite and clean - devoid of pride and impurity**

III. We Are Reconciling People (9)

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

**A. Relational people - Peacemakers are only content when they are right with others**

**B. Resilient people - Peacemakers know how to be quiet & welcome God to defend them**

**C. Restorative people - Peacemakers build bridges, not burn them**

**D. Retaining people - Peacemakers do not seek peace at the expense of integrity; they hold to truth**

#### IV. We Are Steadfast People (10-12)

**"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."**

- A. The reason for persecution (10a, 11b) - "...for righteousness' sake...on My account."**
- B. The mode of persecution (11a) - "...when others revile you and persecute you, utter all kinds of evil against you falsely..."**
- C. The response to this persecution (12a) - "Rejoice and be glad..."**
- D. The precedent for persecution (12b) - "...they persecuted the prophets who were before you."**

#### V. We Are Blessed People

- A. We receive mercy (7) - "...for they shall receive mercy."**
- B. We experience intimacy with God (8) - "...for they shall see God."**
- C. We resemble and reflect God (9) - "...for they shall be called sons of God."**
- D. We have great reward awaiting us (12) - "...for your reward is great in heaven..."**

**The word BLESSED indicates that Jesus is saying, "Oh how happy are they!"**

**The reason that repentant, broken, meek, thirsting, merciful, pure-hearted, peacemaking, persecuted people are happy is because:**

**They are inheriting the Kingdom of God both now and forever (3, 10)**

**They receive their comfort from the heart of God (4)**

**They understand that all that is denied them now will one day be under their rule (5)**

**They alone are the only ones who can be completely satisfied (6)**

**They experience God's mercy (7)**

**They are experiencing intimacy with God now, and will do so forever (8)**

**They are fulfilling the will of God in that they are taking on His character so much that they are known as His children (9)**

**They are promised a great reward when their life is over (12)**