

The Sermon on the Mount: Beatitudes 7-9
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Text: Matthew 5:9-12

Gospel of Matthew: [Bibliography](#) or [Manuscripts and Greek Exegesis](#)

UBS 4th Edition Paragraph Topic: The Sermon on the Mount

Central Idea of Message: Christians should reflect godly character in all aspects of life.

Introduction: Jesus wanted to make it perfectly clear that following him demanded far more than superficial infatuation (cf. Tolar 4). Herein, therefore, are found practical expressions of the Christian life as exhibited in character qualities.

Moreover, Jesus is not teaching salvation by works, but rather, he is articulating the ethical nature which springs forth from salvation by faith in him. Thus, **the Sermon on the Mount does not tell people how to be saved, but how saved people should live** (cf. Greenfield 17).

These beatitudes [condition of blessedness or happiness and comes from the Latin word for blessed, which is *beatus*], or qualities of kingdom character which are regarded as *approved* by God, are traits all Christians should exhibit.

Thus, the beatitudes portray an ideal ethic [perfect goal], a descriptive ethic [describing what authentic Christianity looks like], a prescriptive ethic [prescribing how Christians should live, look, and act], an inward ethic [internal source], an eschatological ethic [future Millennial and heavenly time], an all-inclusive ethic, and, in a word, a Christian ethic lived in this present, evil age.

I. Blessed Are the Peacemakers (v. 9)

A. Peacemaker

1. The Zealots in the time of Jesus who wanted a champion to lead them in revolt against Rome must have cringed as they listened to these words
2. Christians should not seek out conflict or wish to remain in it when it happens
3. **The Promised Son [The Messiah] is the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6) who brings order out of chaos**

- a) Reconciler, one who earnestly desires to live in harmony with God and man
- b) One intent on bringing order out of chaos (cf. Nelson 30)
- 4. **Beatitudinal peacemaking entails both vertical and horizontal peacemaking - making peace with God and others**
 - a) **Neutrality is never the position a Christian should take regarding peacemaking, morals, ethics, or righteousness**
 - b) **We may never achieve like-mindedness this side of heaven, but we can pursue and value like-heartedness, which should hold division in a family and a church to a minimum**
- B. These will be called sons of God
 - 1. A reference to "sharing God's character" (France 169)
 - 2. A reference also to sharing God's nature (cf. Tolbert 38)
 - 3. Another reference to the princely status of believers and inheriting God's kingdom

II. **Blessed Are Those Who Have Been Persecuted for the Sake of Righteousness (v. 10)**

- A. What sort of treatment do you expect to receive from the world?
 - 1. Darkness hates the light (2 Chron. 18:7; John 3:20)!
 - 2. The world hates Jesus (John 7:7)!
 - 3. The world hates disciples of Jesus (John 15:9)!
 - 4. Evil despises righteousness!
- B. Not simply persecuted, but harassed or crushed because of Christ, because of the faith
 - 1. Posing as persecuted is a common ploy because playing the victim (1) makes others the villains and (2) paves the way for avoiding being held accountable
 - 2. Beheaded, drowned, shot, beaten, slandered
 - 3. **"It is not the suffering, but the cause, that makes the martyr" (Henry 5:53)**
- C. **Persecution is the result when two irreconcilable lifestyles collide: the way of righteousness and the way of unrighteousness**
 - 1. If we thought modeling these Christ-like values would remove vulnerability to persecution we are

wrong, in fact, living these values both makes us vulnerable and invites persecution

2. **"Persecution awaits the honest politician, the tradesman who will not compromise for profits, the teacher who cleaves to truth" (Buttrick 7:287)**
3. **An unpersecuted Christianity may in some cases reflect a faith depleted of its requisite vitality**
4. But the kingdom of heaven is ours!

III. **Blessed Are Those Who Are Insulted and Maligned on Account of Christ (vv. 11-12)**

- A. **This "ninth beatitude" is considered by many to be "a repetition and expansion of v. 10" (France 171)**
- B. **Christians can expect to be despised for their imitation of Jesus, meaning Christian beliefs and practices**
 1. Ridiculed for your morality
 - a) Detested for your denunciation of abortion and homosexuality
 - b) Mocked for eschewing alcohol, drugs, and tobacco
 - c) Scorned for your modesty in attire and language
 2. **Many of the world's insults won't even be behind the Christian's back, they will be hurled right into the face!**
 3. **The world wants to cancel Christianity because...**
 - a) The authentic Christian life that you and I are to live and promote challenges the world and its values
 - b) Note that Jesus said that the world would "say all kinds of evil against you falsely"
 - c) We must make sure that the evil things said about us are not true, and if they are, we must confess them and turn from them
- C. The absence of this sort of persecution for the sake of righteousness may suggest a faith with little substance or integrity (cf. Nelson 30)
 1. Rightly divide the word of God, receive its conclusions, then stand your ground
 2. Let the scorners scorn!
 3. Your magnificent inheritance awaits!
- D. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great (v. 12)

1. Believers are not told to grin and bear insult on account of Christ, but rather are told to rejoice!
 - a) Someone noticed Jesus in you!
 - b) What a compliment!
2. **The very things which cause the world to hate Christians are the very things which signify that we are sons and daughters of God and bound for an indescribable heavenly inheritance!**
 - a) Radically different value systems are at work!
 - b) Refuse to be conformed to this world but be transformed by the power of Christ in you!
 - c) The reward of heaven far outweighs any evil, any persecution, any insulting, and any suffering Christians experience on earth
 - d) Look ahead, not behind!
3. The prophets, apostles, and Jesus himself have already walked more than a mile in our moccasins (see Heb. 11:36-38)
 - a) Since they were persecuted, is it any wonder that genuine believers will themselves also be harassed and crushed?
 - b) Since the world cannot get its hands on Jesus again, it will have to settle for you and me!
 - c) **If you are faced with the choices of loyalty to Christ or living, what would you choose?**

Conclusion: Now, for which of these statements was Jesus arrested and condemned? For all of them, because he dared to establish the parameters of genuine righteousness as defined by his Father, and, in so doing, he exposed the hypocrisy of the religious practitioners of his day which was masquerading around as righteousness.

A Christian is one who has trusted Christ Jesus as Savior and Lord by repenting of sin and placing faith in him alone to save. Those who have done so are inhabited by his Holy Spirit, and this indwelling cannot help but surface and be seen.

A Christian can be known by her or his righteous fruit! Blessed are these, for their reward in heaven is great.