

**The Sermon on the Mount: Beatitudes 4-6**  
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**Original: 3-6-04; Revised: 4-30-23**

**Text:** Matthew 5:6-8

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

**UBS 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness (v. 6)**

- A. Hungering and thirsting for righteousness
  1. Figurative language denoting moral uprightness
  2. Passionate for holiness to surface in their lives
  3. Eat, sleep, and drink righteousness
  4. **Are your deepest cravings for the spiritual blessings of righteousness or for the material blessings of the world?**

5. **James K. A. Smith said, "You are what you love" (Smith in Hébert 101)**
6. **Craving righteousness like the starving crave food and the parched crave water is a significant feature of a true Christian**
- B. Absolute holiness will eventually win the day and prevail, but God wants his people to begin practicing holiness now
- C. Righteousness will be unconditional in heaven and experienced by all its inhabitants

## II. **Blessed Are the Merciful (v. 7)**

- A. Merciful: feel compassion, but also act on it
  1. Those who show compassion to others receive compassion from God
  2. More than emotional pity
  3. Feeling and seeing as those do who are hurting is a description of sympathy
- B. The miseries caused by sin make showing mercy necessary (cf. Nelson 29)
- C. Christians are able to love because we have been loved; we are able to show mercy because we have been shown mercy
- D. As with all of these beatitudes, there is the cue to imitate God, and the very best illustration we have of God is Jesus
- E. **Extending mercy to others is strong evidence that we ourselves have experienced God's mercy**
- F. **The description of these who are part of God's Kingdom emphasizes that they are, themselves, both the objects of and recipients of God's mercy**
- G. **James 2:13 explains, "For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement"**

## III. **Blessed Are the Pure in Heart (v. 8)**

- A. **We all need to admit that we love our sin, otherwise we wouldn't do it (cf. Hébert 142)**
- B. Pure in heart
  1. See also Pss. 24:3-4; 51:10
  2. Holy, keeping our life and mind clean
  3. Clearness of mind and focused commitment to Christ
  4. Harboring no bitterness toward God or others
  5. Clinging to no hidden wickedness
  6. Absence of filth

7. Routine confessing and forsaking of sin
  8. Purity explained (Dummelow 640)
    - a) "Benevolence is pure when it contains no admixture of self-seeking"
    - b) "Justice is pure when it contains no admixture of partiality"
    - c) "Love is pure when it contains no admixture of lust"
    - d) "Purity has here its widest sense and includes everything" (Robertson 1:42)
  9. **We must never settle for any substitutes to being pure in heart, which means moral cleanness!**
  10. **The point, again, is that the presence of God in the life of the true Christian cannot remain unseen!**
  11. **Juan Sanchez reminds us that, "Our message falls on deaf ears if our lives contradict it" (Sanchez in Hébert 145)**
- C. These will enter God's presence; another inference to inheriting eternal life

**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.**