

The Sermon on the Mount: The Beatitudes

Read: Matthew 5:1-12

Summary:

The Sermon on the Mount can be summed up in one word CONTRAST! Although this passage does not contain lots of doctrine it very clearly paints a picture of not what makes a Christian but how a Christian should be radically different from those who are not saved. The high standard set by Jesus has many implications: Jesus died so that we are different; we must be born again and filled with the Holy Spirit; our obedience will result in blessing and will provoke others to follow Him.

Poor in Spirit a persons humble attitude towards themselves; recognising how small they are and how great God is!

Those who Mourn aware of their own sin and that of society we are comforted knowing Jesus has forgiven us and He will return for us!

Those who hunger and thirst we want to be righteous, free from sin and its effects. We actively avoid sin, discipline ourselves and pursue the blessing of God

The Merciful mercy is compassion, not trying to gain revenge but wanting to see suffering relived. Our great example in this is Jesus!

The Pure in Heart Not just changed behaviour but inward purity which can only be achieved by the daily filling of the Holy Spirit.

The Peacemakers people who look to remove conflict and see real peace; not just peace lovers who avoid conflict

The Persecuted Not persecuted because they are difficult and awkward but because they are different, Christians, like Jesus must expect trouble.

Application:

Please select from the following. Encourage all to take part and to be honest; in what ways are people to change as a result of the word? Make sure there is time to pray for one another.

1. Was anything said that needs clarifying?
2. What did God say to you and what are you going to do as a result?
3. Which Beatitude do you find most challenging and why?
4. How much of this is something that is done for us and how much do we need to achieve yourself?
5. List the 10 ways you are very different from those around you. In what ways have you compromised to merge in?
6. Pray for each other to be filled with the Holy Spirit.