

Beatitudes -The Heart of the Kingdom

Matthew 5:1-12

How do we know if we're in _____?

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"
Mat 7:21-23

The Sermon on the Mount is the proclamation of the _____ and the _____

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Mat 5:1

The Beatitudes are a reflection of the _____

Blessed (*Makarios*): Happy, blessed, the favor and approval of God is upon you

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
Mat 5:2-3

• **Poor in spirit** – _____

The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'
Luke 18:11-13

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Mat 5:4

• **Those who mourn** - _____

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

Mat 5:5

• **Meekness** – _____

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

Mat 5:6

• **Hunger and thirst** – _____

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

Mat 5:7

• **Mercy** – _____

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

Mat 5:8

• **Pure in heart** – _____

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

• **Peacemakers** – _____

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

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."
Mat 5:10-12

• **Persecuted for** _____

Discussion Questions:

- Share an example of how you have lived out the beatitudes?
- Share an example of how you have seen the beatitudes lives out in your group member's lives.
- The beatitudes (and the Sermon on the Mount) describe the lives of those in God's kingdom. What demand does this make of the Christian life?
- If you were to write a beatitude for our world today, what would this world consider "blessed"?
- What is the most challenging beatitude for you? Why?

Further study:

- Compare the sermon on the mount to Is 61. What similarities do you see?
- Read Luke 6:20-49. What are some similarities and difference between Luke's Sermon on the Plain, and Matthew's Sermon on the Mount?
- Read James and compare James' epistle with the Sermon on the Mount. In what ways does James further expound on Jesus' sermon?