

The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:3-10, paraphrased by Rev. John W. Perry

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the ones not filled with certainty, not filled with strength, not filled with overweening confidence; for they know how much they need God.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the ones who do not resign themselves to the world as it presently is – the ones who instead lament: lament wars, hunger, injustice, loneliness, affliction; for they share in the heart of God.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are the ones who have little power in this world, and the ones who choose not to exert power; for through their humility, they leave room in which God can work.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the ones who so long to know and to do the will of God; for they already accomplish God's will more than they realize, and are closer to God than they can imagine.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the ones who know themselves to be bound up with God's other children, and who live accordingly; for so also is God bound up with them.

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

Blessed are the ones who long to have their thoughts and feelings attuned to God; for God is in their eyes, and with their eyes they already do see God, all around.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are the ones who work toward whatever is needed for meaningful life, offering hope where there is deprivation or despair; for they build peace, one life at a time, for God's children, as God's children.

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

Blessed are we, when we do these things. Or, when we strive to do these things, with God's help. And we do not stop to count the cost. For it is then that we live, alongside God, in the Kingdom. Not only as something that will be given us in the future, as a reward. But also as a thing that we live. In the present time. Here. And now.