***THE BE—ATTITUDES: A FOCUSED-STUDY OF MATTHEW 5:1-10.***

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This present study offers a focused-look into the beginning of the teachings of Jesus which are referred to as His Sermon on the Mount. Known as the beatitudes, they offer the nature and scope of His teaching on what constitutes the blessed state of an individual. The word

Beatitude is *“a literary form which commences with the word “blessed,” and constitutes a declaration of praise for an individual regarded as an unusual example of moral rectitude and piety, who as a consequence might anticipate some appropriate reward from God.”* [[1]](#footnote-1) From this definition, the wording *“unusual example of moral rectitude and piety”* points to a standard of life to be diligently sought after by the people of God. They declare a new state of being wrought in the nature of the new creation by the Holy Spirit. Since we are desirous of moving to the next level spiritually, it is necessary to gain good understanding of these attributes from the Lord’s perspective. From that understanding, we will learn how to put these things on and wear them continuously. The last clause in the definition “*who as a consequence might anticipate some appropriate reward from God,”* is consistent with the last clause of Hebrews 11:6, which says,

*“He rewards those who earnestly seek him.”* Such a divine promise should create in us an earnest desire to measure up to the standards found in the beatitudes. Comes now the text offered from the Amplified Bible, Classic Edition, Matthew 5: 3-12.

***3****Blessed (happy, [*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23238a)*]to be envied, and [*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23238b)*]spiritually prosperous—[*[*c*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23238c)*]with life-joy and satisfaction in God’s favor and salvation, regardless of their outward conditions) are the poor in spirit (the humble, who rate themselves insignificant), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven!*

***4****Blessed and enviably happy [with a [*[*d*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23239d)*]happiness produced by the experience of God’s favor and especially conditioned by the revelation of His matchless grace] are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted!*

***5****Blessed (happy, blithesome, joyous, [*[*e*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23240e)*]spiritually prosperous—[*[*f*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23240f)*]with life-joy and satisfaction in God’s favor and salvation, regardless of their outward conditions) are the meek (the mild, patient, long-suffering), for they shall inherit the earth!*

***6****Blessed and fortunate and happy and [*[*g*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23241g)*]spiritually prosperous (in that state in which the born-again child of God [*[*h*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23241h)*]enjoys His favor and salvation) are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (uprightness and right standing with God), for they shall be [*[*i*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23241i)*]completely satisfied!*

***7****Blessed (happy, [*[*j*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23242j)*]to be envied, and [*[*k*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23242k)*]spiritually prosperous—[*[*l*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23242l)*]with life-joy and satisfaction in God’s favor and salvation, regardless of their outward conditions) are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy!*

***8****Blessed (happy, [*[*m*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23243m)*]enviably fortunate, and [*[*n*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23243n)*]spiritually prosperous—possessing the [*[*o*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23243o)*]happiness produced by the experience of God’s favor and especially conditioned by the revelation of His grace, regardless of their outward conditions) are the pure in heart, for they shall see God!*

***9****Blessed (enjoying [*[*p*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23244p)*]enviable happiness, [*[*q*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23244q)*]spiritually prosperous—[*[*r*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23244r)*]with life-joy and satisfaction in God’s favor and salvation, regardless of their outward conditions) are the makers and [*[*s*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23244s)*] maintainers of peace, for they shall be called the sons of God!*

***10****Blessed and happy and [*[*t*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23245t)*]enviably fortunate and [*[*u*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23245u)*]spiritually prosperous [*[*v*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23245v)*](in the state in which the born-again child of God enjoys and finds satisfaction in God’s favor and salvation, regardless of his outward conditions) are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake (for being and doing right), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven!*

***11****Blessed (happy, [*[*w*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23246w)*]to be envied, and [*[*x*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23246x)*]spiritually prosperous—[*[*y*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23246y)*]with life-joy and satisfaction in God’s favor and salvation, regardless of your outward conditions) are you when people revile you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil things against you falsely on My account.*

***12****Be glad and supremely joyful, for your reward in heaven is great (strong and intense), for in this same way people persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

Admittedly, this version presents a longer rendering of these verses but the expansion is helpful; it widens the field without perverting the meaning. The first beatitude talks about “poor in spirit.”

**(5:3a) The poor in spirit**

***3***Blessed (happy, [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23238a)]to be envied, and [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23238b)]spiritually prosperous—[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23238c)]with life-joy and satisfaction in God’s favor and salvation, regardless of their outward conditions) are the poor in spirit (the humble, who rate themselves insignificant), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The governing thought in this first beatitude is a consciousness of our insufficiency—not an insufficiency of material wealth but of the spiritual. The Holy Spirit through the word of God shines a light in the inner man which was not before present. Prior to this, our minds were not deeply focused on our spiritual poverty but rather on our self-sufficiency or our need to be more self-sufficient in a material way. In a work called The Beatitudes, we find this comment.

*It is the opposite of that haughty, self-assertive, and self-sufficient disposition that the world so much admires and praises. It is the very reverse of that independent and defiant attitude that refuses to bow to God, that determines to brave things out, and that says with Pharaoh, “Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice?” (Exodus 5:2). To be poor in spirit is to realize that I have nothing, am nothing, and can do nothing, and have need of all things. Poverty of spirit is evident in a person when he is brought into the dust before God to acknowledge his utter helplessness.*

Spiritual reason demands that we accept this truth: we are always a second from eternity! Regardless of wealth, brilliance, beauty, race, poverty, ignorance, common looks, and nationality, we are on a ship sailing for the port of eternity. This ship makes no stops. It is in motion every second even when there are no winds. Though this is true, each individual can make a choice that will allow him/ her to end up in a certain point in eternity. One choice is to rid oneself of pride, arrogance, and elitism. Though these things carry merit in the world, they hold no value with God. He, who knows all things, is not impressed. Realization of poverty in spirit carries more value with Him than the lofty of spirit. The poor in spirit are the ones whom Jesus says are blessed. Now consider the term blessed. *Blessed (happy, [*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23238a)*]to be envied, and [*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23238b)*]spiritually prosperous—[*[*c*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23238c)*]with life-joy and satisfaction in God’s favor and salvation, regardless of their outward conditions)*. I realize that I have postponed the definition of the term “blessed” by dealing with the nature of the individual first. In the Amplified Version, Classic Edition, the term “blessed” has been adequately defined.

***(5:3b). For theirs is the kingdom of heaven***

God resists the proud but giveth grace to the humble (James 4:6). But what is the grace of James 4:6? I am a firm believer that the grace of which this passage speaks *involves “the merciful kindness by which God, exerting His holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles to the exercise of the Christian virtues (Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, page 666).”*

In a work entitled *Matthew (Unlocking the Scripture for You)*, the author says, *“The kingdom of heaven” is a Matthean synonym for God. As a good Jew, Matthew frequently substitutes Heaven for God, a name too holy to profane with overuse. The poor in spirit enjoy the fellowship of God because their attention is on Him and not on themselves.”*

The second beatitude says, “*Blessed and enviably happy [with a [*[*d*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5&version=AMPC#fen-AMPC-23239d)*]happiness produced by the experience of God’s favor and especially conditioned by the revelation of His matchless grace] are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted!* What is the meaning of mourn in this text?

“In this Scripture, it is a sorrow for sin, a broken heart over evil and suffering. It is a brokenness of self from seeing Christ on the cross and realizing our sins put Him there.

***Blessed are they that mourn***

What is the meaning of mourn in this text*? “In this Scripture, it is a sorrow for sin, a broken heart over evil and suffering. It is a brokenness of self from seeing Christ on the cross and realizing our sins put Him there.” (Practical Word Studies in the New Testament, Volume 2, L-Z, page 1395).* In the original, the word for mourn is *penthountes.* In cross-checking with Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, the term means *inundation, deluge* (Strong’s, 2627). In the reference number 2626, the meaning is *“to overwhelm with water, to submerge”*).

These words applied to how we view sin carry the idea of being overwhelmed with sorrow for committed sins. Such sorrow would be godly in nature (2 Corinthians 7:8-13)

***For they shall be comforted***

Such comfort far exceeds that which materialism can bring. God’s comfort is complete; it is the kind which satisfies the longings of the spirit. It reaches deep into the soul and spirit and soothes away the troubles providing a peace which transcends. Now let us put this in context. Sin hated and repented of brings about forgiveness from God. The forgiveness of God means no condemnation. The realization of this by the individual means freedom from guilt. This, in turn, is the comfort received.

1. F or more information on the term ***beatitude*** consult *The Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible,* A-D, page 369. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)