

## Matthew 5:1-12

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Also read:**  
Matt 18:21-35

## Community Group Study 6 June 2010



### Introduction

We learned last week that the beatitudes are a list of attributes of a Christian. The first four beatitudes underline what is required to be a part of the kingdom of heaven. The next five describe how such a person behaves as salt and light of the world.

Once we are received into the kingdom, we realize that the gospel is not just the truth – it is the truth by which all other truths are discovered and defined.

Mercy is generosity beyond what is required or not demanding something that is rightfully ours. True mercy can only be given when we recognize how merciful God has been to us.

Purity of heart is an inner commitment to the ways of God. It is a commitment that withstands difficulty and results in personal sacrifice to keep.

Peacemakers are those who truly reconcile by, in grace and mercy, exposing the damaged core of our hearts and repairing it with the good news of the reconciling price paid by the Prince of Peace.

Finally, as the Christian works out these beatitudes, he is both loved and hated by the world because of the sin he exposes and the redemption that he points towards.

### Discussion

>>Does our salvation change the way we live or does the way we live change the state of our salvation?

>>How do we become "pure in heart"?

>>How do we understand Jesus, Prince of Peace saying the words in Matt 10:34-39?

### Explanation

>>What is the mercy the God gives us and how do we receive more as we show mercy?

>>What is the nature of the peace that "peacemakers" bring?

>>How can one be "blessed" when one is being persecuted?

### Application

>>How can Christians show mercy today at a cost to themselves?

>>What areas of your life are inconsistent with the beatitudes' description of the Christian?

>>How can our relationships with others be changed based on the beatitudes?