

Live Like Christ: The Sermon on the Mount
Session 1: The Beatitudes

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

- D.A. Carson, “Poverty of spirit is the personal acknowledgement of spiritual bankruptcy...it is the deepest form of repentance.”
- This is the start of the Sermon on the Mount because we can’t do anything Jesus says in it on our own!
- Do you approach God without self-righteousness, moral self-esteem, or desire for fame or glory?

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

- Bonhoeffer, “By ‘mourning’ Jesus, of course, means doing without what the world calls peace and prosperity: He means refusing to be in tune with the world or to accommodate oneself to its standards. Such men mourn for the world, for its guilt, its fate and its fortune.”
- Do you mourn for your own sin and for the cruelty, injustice, ungodliness, and lies of the world? Do you weep for the world rather than condemn it?
- Our comfort is in Christ who came to address sin now and forever more (Revelation 21:1-4)

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

- D.A. Carson – “Meekness is a controlled desire to see the other’s interests advance ahead of one’s own”
- Bonhoeffer, “...they renounce every right of their own and live for the sake of Jesus Christ”
- Are you meek?

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

- Bonhoeffer, “Not only do the followers of Jesus renounce their rights, they renounce their own righteousness too. They get no praise for their achievements or sacrifices...always they look forward to the future righteousness of God, but they cannot establish it for themselves.”
- Are you deeply hungry to conform every detail of your own life to God’s will?

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

- If we're spiritually poor, mourning our sin, meek, and desperately hungry for righteousness, we're going to be merciful to those in desperate need because we recognize that we're in desperate need and dependent on God's mercy!
- Bonhoeffer, "As if their own need and own distress were not enough, they take upon themselves the distress and humiliation and sin of others. They have an irresistible love for the downtrodden, the sick, the wretched, the wronged, the outcast, and all who are tortured by anxiety."
- Are you merciful toward those in dire need? Gentle toward the hopeless? Forgiven to those who trip and fall into sin yet again?

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

- Bonhoeffer, "Who is pure in heart? Only those who have surrendered their hearts completely to Jesus that he may reign in them alone. Only those whose hearts are undefiled by their own evil – and by their own virtues too...their hearts are not ruled by their conscience, but by the will of Jesus."
- Are your first instincts, thoughts, and words in a situation reflective of a pure heart or a filthy one?

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

- Bonhoeffer, "His disciples keep the peace by choosing to endure suffering themselves rather than inflict it on others. They maintain fellowship where others would break it off. They renounce all self-assertion and quietly suffer in the face of hatred and wrong...The peacemakers will carry the cross with their Lord, for it was on the cross that peace was made."
- Does this describe your Christianity today?

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

- If you never experience social or relational cost, much less sharp persecution for your faith – then are you really living like Jesus and displaying the righteousness that a true follower of Christ displays?