

“THE PATH TO THE BLESSED LIFE THAT FEW ARE WILLING TO TAKE [Part 3]” (Matt. 5:1-12)

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INTRO: The Beatitudes are the path to The Blessed Life – a path few are willing to take. Are you?

The Beatitudes - The way our attitudes ought to be as citizens of the kingdom of God, and the blessing each attitude bestows.

The Beatitudes are sequential and progressive steps in our spiritual journey leading to The Blessed Life.

THE 6th BEATITUDE: THE PURE IN HEART (Matt. 5:8)

Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. (Matt. 5:8)

1. There is a desperate “*pure in heart*” crisis today!
2. Do you want to see God? You will not see a holy God while embracing an unholy lifestyle – except on judgment day (Rev. 6:15-16)!
3. How can I see God when the Bible says no one can see God and live (Ex. 33:20; 1Jn. 4:12)? Die daily (1Cor. 15:31)!
 - A. Perhaps God is talking about seeing the fullness of His glory, rather than a glimpse.
 - B. Can we see His face, at least partially, if we die to the flesh – the heart’s impurities?
 - C. Can we see God with the eyes of our spirit but not with our natural eyes?

Outward Appearance vs. Inward Reality (Matt. 23:25-27)

1. The Pharisees put on a good show outwardly but had impure hearts – Jesus called them hypocrites.
2. Jesus said that purity comes from the inside out, not the outside in.
3. Outward conformity isn’t the same as inward purity!

The Blood of Jesus Purifies Our Heart (Heb. 9:22; 13-14)!

One Day the Pure in Heart Will See God (Rev. 22:1-5)!

THE 7th BEATITUDE: THE PEACEMAKERS (Matt. 5:9)

Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. (Matt. 5:9)

1. Peacemakers follow Jesus’ example.
2. Peacemakers must first be at peace with God and must have the peace of God (Phil. 4:6-9).
3. Peacemakers must also first live peaceably with others (Rom. 12:18).
 - A. This requires objectivity & neutrality (Prov. 18:17).
4. Pursuing being a peacemaker may lead to some unpeaceful situations!
5. You have to be willing to get involved to be a peacemaker (1Cor. 6:1-7; 1:10; 3:3)!
6. You are called to be a minister of reconciliation – an ambassador for Christ (2Cor. 5:18-20)!

THE 8th BEATITUDE: THE PERSECUTED (Matt. 5:10-12)

1. The persecuted are only blessed if they are persecuted for righteousness’ sake.
2. The more you walk out the beatitudes (righteous living), the more you will be persecuted (2Tim. 3:12; Heb. 11:32-40; Jn. 15:18-20; Rom. 5:3-5)!
3. **“for great is your reward in heaven,”**
 - A. Won’t it be worth it???
4. Living out The Beatitudes is how we let our lights shine (Matt. 5:13-16)!

CONCLUSION: Will you humble yourself and follow this challenging path that leads to The Blessed Life? Where are you on this journey? Don’t stop! Don’t regress! Keep persevering!