

The Challenge of the Beatitudes

Keep these ideas in mind as you study *Chapter 14*.

❖ The Beatitudes are guidelines for Christlike living that will make us happy and lead us to eternal life. They are part of the Sermon on the Mount. You can find them in Matthew 5:3–10.

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❖ When the rich young man asked for the secret to eternal life, Jesus told him to sell all he owned and follow him. The rich young man could not. See Mark 10:17–22.

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❖ Each beatitude pairs a value with a promise. Those who live these values are promised the Kingdom of Heaven.

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❖ Jesus praises those who are poor in spirit. The spiritual wealth of the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them. To be poor in spirit means to have the attitude of the poor. It means remembering that everything comes from God.

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❖ Jesus promised comfort to those who mourn.

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❖ It takes courage and strength to be gentle and humble. Jesus says that the meek will inherit the land.

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❖ People who hunger and thirst for righteousness act to make God's kingdom come to this world.

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❖ Jesus forgave sinners and the people who hurt him. He wants us to do the same. If we are merciful, we too will receive God's mercy.

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❖ Jesus says that those who are clean of heart will one day see God. These are Christians who put God at the center of all they do.

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❖ A peacemaker spreads peace as Jesus did. Sometimes a peacemaker may have to enter into conflict to stand up for what is right.

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❖ Those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness will receive the Kingdom of Heaven. People are still persecuted today for their beliefs.

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❖ Jesus' teaching conflicted with many of the world's values. It made people see things differently. Jesus' teaching is still revolutionary today.

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