

A detailed illustration of Jesus with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe, standing on a rocky path and gesturing with his right hand towards a large crowd of people. The crowd, consisting of men and women in various colored robes and head coverings, is gathered on a grassy hillside. In the background, there are rolling green hills and a large, rugged mountain under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

Mordichai the Bible Guy Ministries

**Bible Study
Guide:**

**UNDERSTANDING
THE SERMON ON
THE MOUNT**

Bible Study Guide:
Understanding the Sermon on the Mount



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Introduction

The Sermon on the Mount is one of the most well-known and profound teachings of Jesus, recorded in Matthew 5-7. In this sermon, Jesus presents the blueprint for Christian living, laying out the values and attitudes that reflect the Kingdom of God. The Beatitudes, found in Matthew 5:3-12, are the foundation of this sermon and highlight the attitudes and characteristics that God values in His followers.

In this Bible Study Guide, we will explore each of the Beatitudes in detail, offering insights into their meaning and significance. We will also examine cross-references that help us understand how these principles are taught throughout the Bible. As we delve into each Beatitude, we will uncover how they challenge and transform our hearts and minds, and why they remain so relevant in our lives today.

Chapter 1: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

READ:

Matthew 5:3, Isaiah 66:2, James 4:6

Context:

The Sermon on the Mount begins with the Beatitudes, a series of declarations that describe the heart attitudes that characterize the citizens of God's Kingdom. The first Beatitude speaks of spiritual humility, where those who are "poor in spirit" recognize their need for God and their dependence on His grace.

Explanation and Meaning:

"Poor in spirit" refers to an awareness of our spiritual poverty and complete dependence on God. It's about humility—understanding that we cannot save ourselves and must rely fully on God's mercy and grace. Jesus declares that those who are poor in spirit are blessed because they possess the qualities necessary for inheriting the Kingdom of Heaven.

Cross-References:

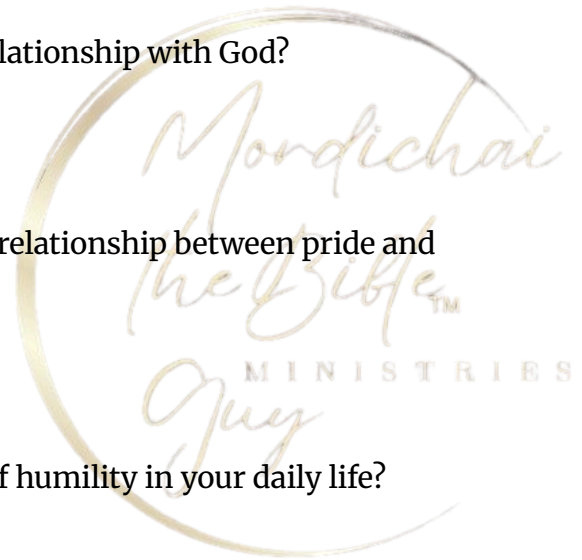
- **Isaiah 66:2** – "But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word."
- **Matthew 5:3** – "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
- **James 4:6** – "But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'"

Life Application:

To live as the poor in spirit is to embrace humility and recognize our need for God in every area of life. It is a rejection of self-sufficiency and an invitation to trust fully in God's grace and provision. As we cultivate this humility, we find our hearts more open to God's work in us.

Study Questions and Reflections:

1. What does it mean to be "poor in spirit," and why is this attitude important for entering the Kingdom of Heaven?
2. How does humility play a role in your relationship with God?
3. What does James 4:6 teach us about the relationship between pride and humility?
4. In what ways can you cultivate a spirit of humility in your daily life?
5. How does recognizing our spiritual poverty lead to a deeper dependence on God?



Chapter 2: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

READ:

Matthew 5:4, Isaiah 61:2-3, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Context:

The second Beatitude speaks to the mourning that comes from recognizing the brokenness of the world, the sorrow over sin, and the grief that comes from personal loss. Jesus promises comfort to those who mourn, assuring them that God will provide solace.

Explanation and Meaning:

This Beatitude goes beyond mourning over personal loss—it speaks to the sorrow over sin, injustice, and the pain in the world. Those who mourn in this way experience God's comfort. Jesus promises that God will bring healing, hope, and peace to those who are sorrowful.

Cross-References:

- **Isaiah 61:2-3** – "To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion."
- **2 Corinthians 1:3-4** – "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

Life Application:

Mourning leads to healing. As we mourn over the brokenness in the world and our own lives, God promises to bring comfort. We are called not only to receive God's comfort but to share that comfort with others who are mourning.

Study Questions and Reflections:

1. How can mourning over sin and the brokenness in the world bring us closer to God?
2. In what ways have you experienced God's comfort during times of mourning or loss?
3. How does 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 show us the role of comfort in Christian community?
4. Why is it important to comfort others who are mourning, and how can you do so in your own life?
5. What is the promise Jesus gives to those who mourn, and how can this bring hope in difficult times?



Chapter 3: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

READ:

Matthew 5:5, Psalm 37:11, Galatians 5:23

Context:

Meekness, in the cultural context of the time, was seen as a virtue that demonstrated gentleness and strength under control. This Beatitude turns the world's value of power on its head, teaching that true strength is found in humility and submission to God.

Explanation and Meaning:

Meekness is not weakness, but rather strength under control. It is the willingness to submit to God's will and serve others humbly. Jesus promises that the meek will inherit the earth, indicating that those who humble themselves will receive God's provision and blessing.

Cross-References:

- **Psalm 37:11** – "But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."
- **Matthew 5:5** – "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."
- **Galatians 5:23** – "Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Life Application:

Living meekly means submitting to God's authority and placing others' needs above our own. As we embrace meekness, we discover that true power is found in service and humility, not in domination or force. This attitude leads to peace and fulfillment in God's Kingdom.

Study Questions and Reflections:

1. What is the difference between meekness and weakness, and why is meekness considered a strength?
2. How does Psalm 37:11 relate to the Beatitude about the meek inheriting the earth?
3. In what ways does meekness manifest in your daily interactions with others?
4. How does meekness help in submitting to God's will and resisting the urge to control situations or people?
5. What rewards do the meek receive, and how does this reflect God's Kingdom?



Chapter 4: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."

READ:

Matthew 5:6, Psalm 42:1-2, Philippians 3:8-9

Context:

The desire for righteousness involves both personal holiness and a longing for justice and peace in the world. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness seek to align themselves with God's will and justice, and Jesus promises that they will be satisfied.

Explanation and Meaning:

This Beatitude speaks of an intense longing for righteousness. Just as hunger and thirst drive our actions to satisfy physical needs, so too should our desire for righteousness shape our lives. Jesus promises that those who long for righteousness will find fulfillment in Him.

Cross-References:

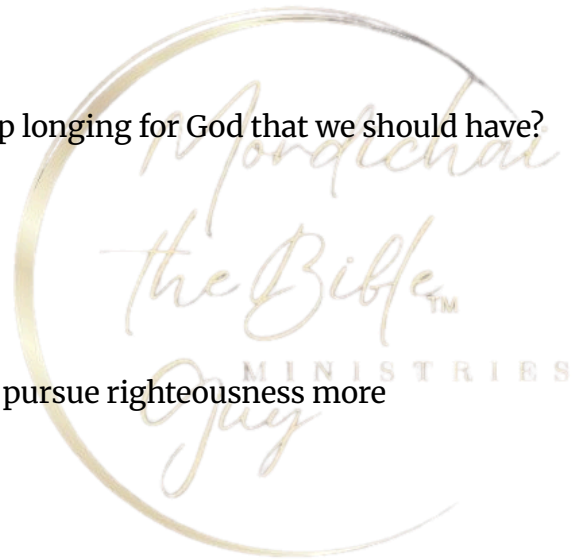
- **Psalm 42:1-2** – "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God."
- **Matthew 5:6** – "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."
- **Philippians 3:8-9** – "Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord."

Life Application:

When we hunger and thirst for righteousness, we prioritize God's will in our lives. This desire affects every area, leading us to pursue justice, holiness, and peace. As we seek righteousness, we are filled with God's grace and His perfect justice.

Study Questions and Reflections:

1. What does it mean to hunger and thirst for righteousness, and how does this desire shape your daily life?
2. How does Psalm 42:1-2 illustrate the deep longing for God that we should have?
3. In what areas of your life do you need to pursue righteousness more intentionally?
4. How does Philippians 3:8-9 challenge the way we view worldly accomplishments and possessions?
5. How can we cultivate a deeper hunger and thirst for righteousness in our lives?



Chapter 5: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

READ:

Matthew 5:7, Luke 6:36, James 2:13

Context:

Mercy, in the biblical sense, is the compassion and forgiveness that God shows us despite our unworthiness. This Beatitude highlights the importance of showing mercy to others, just as God has shown mercy to us. It teaches us that by extending mercy, we invite God's mercy into our lives.

Explanation and Meaning:

Mercy involves both feelings of compassion and the actions that come from those feelings. Those who are merciful forgive others, show kindness, and seek to meet the needs of others. Jesus promises that those who show mercy will receive mercy in return, both from God and from others.

Cross-References:

- **Matthew 5:7** – "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."
- **Luke 6:36** – "Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful."
- **James 2:13** – "For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment."

Life Application:

Mercy is a powerful force for healing and reconciliation. As we show mercy to others, we mirror God's love and forgiveness. We must recognize that mercy triumphs over judgment, and through mercy, we bring about transformation and healing in relationships.

Study Questions and Reflections:

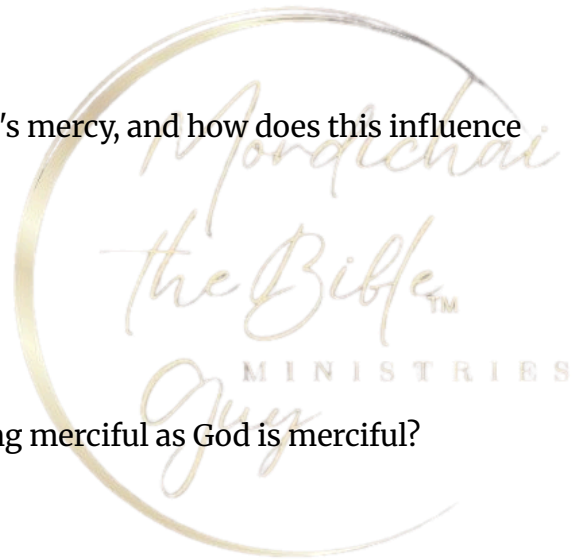
1. How does showing mercy reflect God's character, and why is it important for Christian living?

2. In what ways have you experienced God's mercy, and how does this influence your ability to show mercy to others?

3. What does Luke 6:36 teach us about being merciful as God is merciful?

4. How does James 2:13 emphasize the importance of mercy in our relationships with others?

5. How can you show mercy in practical ways in your daily interactions?



Chapter 6: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

READ:

Matthew 5:8, Psalm 24:3-4, 1 Timothy 1:5

Context:

Purity of heart refers to a heart that is undivided in its devotion to God. It means having sincerity and authenticity in our relationship with God, without hidden motives or deceit. Jesus promises that the pure in heart will see God—experiencing His presence and receiving His guidance.

Explanation and Meaning:

To be "pure in heart" is to have a heart that is free from sin and devoted to God. This purity enables us to see God more clearly, both now and in the life to come. Jesus teaches that when we live with integrity and focus on Him, we experience the richness of His presence and guidance.

Cross-References:

- **Psalm 24:3-4** – "Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart."
- **Matthew 5:8** – "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."
- **1 Timothy 1:5** – "Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith."

Life Application:

Purity of heart allows us to grow in intimacy with God. As we purify our hearts and minds, we can experience God more fully. Living with integrity and authenticity in our faith invites God's presence into our lives in powerful ways.

Study Questions and Reflections:

1. What does it mean to have a pure heart, and how can we cultivate purity in our lives?
2. How does Psalm 24:3-4 explain the importance of a pure heart in approaching God?
3. In what areas of your life do you struggle with purity of heart, and how can you surrender those to God?
4. How does Matthew 5:8 connect purity of heart with seeing God's presence in our lives?
5. What role does sincerity and faith play in maintaining a pure heart before God?



Chapter 7: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

READ:

Matthew 5:9, Romans 14:19, James 3:18

Context:

Peacemaking is more than just the avoidance of conflict; it involves taking active steps to bring reconciliation and harmony where there is division. Jesus, as the ultimate Peacemaker, calls His followers to pursue peace and to work toward reconciliation in all relationships.

Explanation and Meaning:

Peacemakers are people who seek to bring about peace between others, whether in personal relationships or within the community. They reflect God's character by promoting unity and reconciliation. Jesus promises that peacemakers will be called the children of God because they reflect His nature as a reconciler.

Cross-References:

- **Matthew 5:9** – "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."
- **Romans 14:19** – "Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another."
- **James 3:18** – "Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

Life Application:

As Christians, we are called to be active agents of peace, seeking to resolve conflict and restore broken relationships. In doing so, we reflect God's heart and display His love and grace to the world. True peace comes from God, and we are His instruments for spreading that peace.

Study Questions and Reflections:

1. What is the difference between being a peacemaker and merely avoiding conflict?
2. How does Romans 14:19 challenge us to actively pursue peace in our relationships?
3. In what ways can you be a peacemaker in your community, workplace, or family?
4. Why is peacemaking an essential characteristic for those who follow Christ?
5. What role does humility play in being an effective peacemaker?



Chapter 8: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

READ:

Matthew 5:10-12, 2 Timothy 3:12, 1 Peter 4:12-14

Context:

Persecution for righteousness refers to suffering or hardship experienced because of one's commitment to living a godly life. Jesus warns that those who stand firm for righteousness will face opposition, but He assures them that their reward will be great in Heaven.

Explanation and Meaning:

This Beatitude reminds us that suffering for the sake of righteousness is not only expected but is also a mark of true discipleship. Jesus encourages us to rejoice in persecution because it is a sign of our identification with Him, and it will be rewarded in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Cross-References:

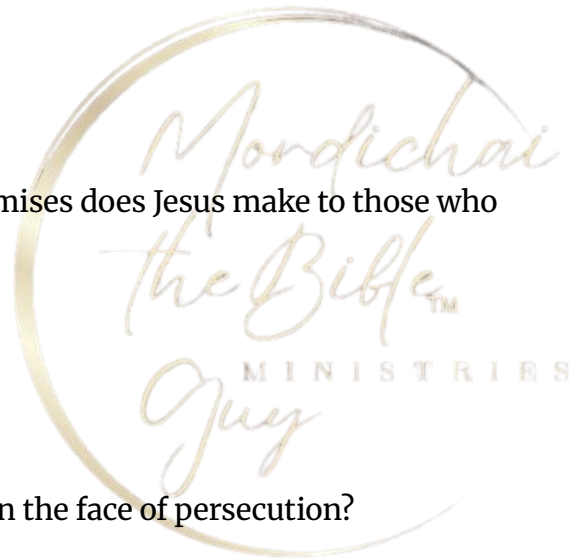
- **Matthew 5:10-12** – "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven."
- **2 Timothy 3:12** – "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."
- **1 Peter 4:12-14** – "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings."

Life Application:

Persecution is part of the Christian journey. When we face opposition for our faith, we should take comfort in the fact that we are sharing in Christ's suffering and that our reward is secure in Heaven. Our response should be one of joy, knowing that God will honor our faithfulness.

Study Questions and Reflections:

1. What does it mean to be persecuted for righteousness' sake, and how should we respond to such persecution?
2. According to Matthew 5:10-12, what promises does Jesus make to those who are persecuted for His sake?
3. How does 2 Timothy 3:12 encourage us in the face of persecution?
4. In what ways can we rejoice in persecution, and what is the reward Jesus promises?
5. How does 1 Peter 4:12-14 help us understand the purpose of trials and suffering in our Christian walk?



Chapter 9: Summary and Application

READ:

Matthew 5:3-12

Context:

The Beatitudes form the foundation of the Sermon on the Mount. Each Beatitude presents a characteristic or attitude that defines those who belong to the Kingdom of Heaven. Together, they challenge worldly values and point to the values of God's Kingdom.

Explanation and Meaning:

The Beatitudes present a radical redefinition of what it means to be blessed. They turn worldly values upside down, showing that God values humility, mercy, purity, peace, and righteousness. Each Beatitude is a promise of blessing for those who embrace these attitudes, and it reveals the values that should define Christian living.

Cross-References:

- **Matthew 5:3-12** – The full passage of the Beatitudes, encapsulating the Kingdom values.

Life Application:

As Christians, we are called to live out the values of the Beatitudes. They are not just abstract principles but are meant to shape our everyday lives. By embodying the Beatitudes, we reflect God's heart to the world and live as true citizens of His Kingdom.

Study Questions and Reflections:

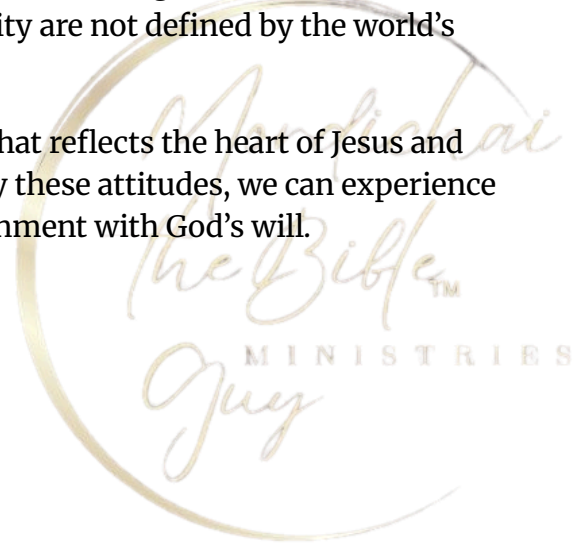
1. Which of the Beatitudes do you find most challenging, and why?
2. How can the values in the Beatitudes impact the way we view success and failure in our lives?
3. In what ways have you experienced the promises of the Beatitudes in your own life?
4. How can you apply the Beatitudes in your daily interactions with others?
5. What changes do you need to make in your life to align more fully with the teachings of the Beatitudes?



Conclusion

The Beatitudes are not just a list of characteristics to aspire to but a description of the heart transformation that comes when we follow Jesus. By embracing these teachings, we become more like Christ and reflect His Kingdom to the world. The Beatitudes remind us that our worth and identity are not defined by the world's standards but by the values of God's Kingdom.

May this study encourage you to live in a way that reflects the heart of Jesus and advances His Kingdom on earth. As we embody these attitudes, we can experience the joy and peace that come from living in alignment with God's will.



NOTES

