

The Beatitudes, Part 1
Matthew 5:1-10

Main Point:

True disciples have certain characteristics to them; therefore, examine yourself and flee to Christ.

1. In the Beatitudes, Jesus describes what a true disciple looks like.
2. A disciple of Christ knows his place before God.
3. A disciple of Christ yearns for more righteousness in life.
4. A disciple of Christ lives out his Christ-likeness in a fallen world.
5. Examine yourself to see if you are a disciple of Christ.
6. Let your self-examination cause you to flee to Christ.

Quotations

John Legg “In the Beatitudes Jesus does not give instructions about how to live. The Beatitudes simply describe the character and characteristics of those who are blessed already, who belong to God’s kingdom.”

Sinclair Ferguson “Jesus is describing the person who sees his spiritual bondage, is conscious of the depth of his sins... And knows that in himself he is dispossessed of God.”

Sinclair Ferguson “When God leads us to see that this is our real condition before him, and we recognize this to be so, then poverty of spirit is born in our hearts. Undeceived at last, we see that our only hope is in the Lord. We are poor men and women in ourselves, with no righteousness of our own to plead before God. We are bankrupt, debtors in his court. Our plea must be for mercy.”

Sinclair Ferguson “He [the Christian] does not excuse his sin, or belittle it, or ignore it. He does not weigh it in the balance with what he regards as his better qualities, or the fruitfulness of his service. Rather, he cries out with Paul, ‘What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?’”

Mark Ross “[The meek are those] who, being neither proud nor arrogant, humble themselves under the mighty hand of God and claim nothing for themselves”.

Sinclair Ferguson “Mercy is getting down on your hands and knees and doing what you can to restore dignity to someone whose life has been broken by sin (whether his own or that of someone else).”

Sinclair Ferguson “To be pure in heart is to be uncompromisingly dedicated to Christ.”

John Legg “... The peacemaker longs to share in the reconciling of sinners to God, by witnessing to the gospel of peace. Whether an official ambassador [like a pastor] or an unofficial one, he shares in the desire and appeal of his father by imploring sinners around him to be reconciled to God ...”

John Legg “This [the Beatitudes] is not a blueprint for us to put into practice, but a description of what is true already of the Christian. Nevertheless, it is necessary to realize that this is what we are, so that we may live consistently with it.”