

*The Beatitudes (1)*  
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**Introduction:** What is a Christian made of?

- A. It can rightly be said that the beatitudes describe the component parts of the Christian's heart. **(Mt 5:1-12)**
  - 1. These are not independent proverbs describing eight different people.
  - 2. "The beatitudes speak exclusively of spiritual qualities. The historic concerns of men - material wealth, social status and worldly wisdom - do not simply receive little attention, they receive none at all." - Paul Earnhart
- B. Where does happiness come from?
  - 1. The word "blessed" is from *Macarios* and means happy. It has to do with one's state of mind. It is the state of wellbeing; contentment with joy; peace and tranquility.
  - 2. How can I be happy? All seek an answer. Most seek it in wrong way.
    - a. Many are under the delusion that happiness depends upon what one has. This is not true. **(Lk. 12:15)**
    - b. In the beatitudes Jesus teaches that happiness depends upon one's attitude.
  - 3. Will you test your heart and consider the meaning of real Christianity?

**I. The wellspring of all Christian character - the poor in spirit**

- A. What is the Christian's attitude toward himself in the presence of God? **(Mt 5:3)**
  - 1. The word used here (*ptochos*), may be translated "abject poverty." It reflects one who is virtually destitute, or in "imminent danger of real starvation."
    - a. The word is used to describe the widow with the two mites. **(Mk 12:42-44)**
    - b. It described Lazarus who had to beg. **(Lk 16:20-21)**
    - c. It described Jesus in his earthly state as compared to heaven! **(2 Cor 8:9)**
  - 2. Here Jesus is describing poverty of *spirit*.
    - a. We must see our need of and dependence upon God. **(Jn 15:5)**
    - b. Only when we see our deep poverty and believe it will God be able to guide us. **(Jer 10:23)**
    - c. This is the first step in pleasing God! **(Psa 51:17)**
    - d. When we have this kind of spirit we will realize that we cannot impress God! This will keep us from the sin of pride. **(Isa 64:6)**
  - 3. Consider the example of the Canaanite woman! **(Mt 15:21-28)**
- B. Things that do not constitute "poor in spirit."
  - 1. **Poor in profession** - Glorifying in one's poverty does not demonstrate humility!
  - 2. **Poor spirited** - "The weak, the nervous, the non-courageous, or simply moral cowards who succumb to temptation and compromise with evil." - Jimmy Tuten
  - 3. **The recluse** - Those who withdraw or quit in difficult times are self consumed.
  - 4. **The poor in circumstance** - This is not what the Lord described!
- C. Consider the differences between pride and humility.
  - 1. **In relation to knowledge:**
    - a. Pride causes a know-it-all attitude with arrogance and prejudice.

- b. Humility recognizes how little one knows and sees the need of continually seeking truth and learning. **(1 Cor 8:1-2)**
- c. What made king Solomon great? **(1 Kgs 3:5-9)**

**2. In relation to self and others:**

- a. Pride causes self-inflation, the desire to be the center of attention.
- b. Humility learns to be content in poverty without feelings of humiliation.
- c. Pride wants to serve rather than to be served. **(Lk 22:24-26; 1 Pt 5:5)**

**3. In relation to God:**

- a. Pride feels self-sufficient. He does not need God.
- b. Pride feels no gratitude to God and is thus weak on prayer.
- c. Pride throws one off guard and leads to ruin. **(Prov 16:18; 29:23)**
- d. This humility leads to the kingdom of heaven! **(Mt 5:3)**

**II. The opportunity of grief - those that mourn. (Mt 5:4)**

**A. The beatitudes go against everything our society thinks!**

- 1. "These are largely paradoxical statements. A more unlikely formula for success could hardly be imagined. They assaulted every maximum of conventional wisdom and left the hearer startled and perplexed." - Paul Earnhart
- 2. The word mourn (pentheo) means "to bewail, lament, mourn for."
- 3. This word described the tears of righteous. **(Lk 6:21)**

**B. How do we become happy through mourning?**

- 1. When we mourn over our sins. We know we have offended God! **(2 Cor 7:10; Psa 51:2-4,17; Joel 2:12-13)**
- 2. When was the last time you grieved over your sins? Sadly pride has caused many to become hard hearted. **(Jas 4:8-10)**
- 3. We should also mourn for and with others. **(Jn 11:33-35; Rom 12:15)**
- 4. "A religion that is coldly ritualistic, that does not feel and mourn, is not the religion of Christ." - Joe Corley

**C. Mourners who do not find happiness.**

- 1. Those who are pessimists who continually wince and murmur.
- 2. Those who in self-pity wear their feelings on their sleeves.
- 3. Those who have injured pride. The egotist feels no sorrow for the wrong he does or the hurt of others. He always looks at himself.
- 4. Those who mourn over material loss or frustrated ambition.
- 5. Those who mourn only at the consequences and effects of their sin. **(2 Cor 7:10)**

**D. The blessings of God's comfort.**

- 1. "The right kind of mourning actually enshrines our lives -- draws us closer to God and thus brings us comfort." - Joe Corley
- 2. Will you know the joy of forgiveness, the joy of service and the comfort of heaven? **(Ps 32:1-2; 30:5; Rev 21:3-4)**

**Conclusion:** Have you begun the Christian life?

**A. These two steps are the essential beginning of every Christian. (Acts 2:36-38)**

**B. We must see the bad news before we ever could appreciate the good news.**

**(Rom 1:16, 18)**