

CATECHISM REFERENCES:

- # 1717
- # 1934
- # 1718

SCRIPTURES:

- Matthew 5:1-8
- John 17:1-3, 18:37-38
- Romans 12:4-5

Jesus presents us with the Beatitudes in His Sermon on the Mount in the New Testament. The Beatitudes are especially significant because they are direct teachings from Jesus and portray His charity. They show the faithful how to live, and shed light on the actions and attitudes characteristic to the Christian life. The Beatitudes bring us true happiness because they allow us to see God how He is: perfect, holy and beautiful. The happiness that we experience in living the Beatitudes foreshadows the happiness that we receive when we will see God face to face in heaven. We are meant to experience this happiness, this free gift, not in isolation but with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

A. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5: 3)

1. Jesus says, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” When we are spiritually poor, it allows us to become humble and for God to refill us with His Spirit.
2. This Beatitude is the foundation that all the other Beatitudes are built on. This Beatitude challenges us to get rid of all the excess in our lives—all the things that take God’s place.
3. Choosing a life style of “poor in spirit” is first saying “yes” to God and then serving others in humility.
4. This is only possible when we put our pride and worldly pleasures aside. Otherwise, we tend to fill ourselves with things that will separate us from God and our neighbor – materialism, selfishness, isolationism and exploitation of others.

5. Discussion Questions:

- a. Who do you know that you would describe as “poor in spirit”? Why? Is that a good thing?
- b. In your life right now are you practicing this Beatitude? How?
- c. How does this Beatitude show a need for community?
- d. How can we practically live his Beatitude every day?

B. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted (Matthew 5: 4)

1. Jesus says, “Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.” When we mourn, we allow God to console us with His love. Mourning helps us unite ourselves to Christ’s sufferings, where we pick up our own crosses and follow Him to glory. Our faith teaches us that there is always a Resurrection when we place our lives in the hands of God, and that in our mourning we still can find hope in Christ.

2. Through mourning, we learn to be more compassionate to the weak, the suffering, the defenseless and those in pain. We become more sensitive to those who have no one to care for them and we realize our call to serve those in need.

3. When we ignore the call to comfort and console those in need, we adopt the attitude of apathy. We stand back, watch and allow those who need our help to be remain in pain and loneliness.

4. Discussion Questions:

- a. According to Jesus, mourning is a good thing. Do you agree?
- b. In your life right now are you practicing this Beatitude? How?
- c. How does this Beatitude show a need for community?
- d. How can we practically live his Beatitude every day?

C. Blesses are the meek, for they will inherit the land (Matthew 5: 5)

1. Jesus says, “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.” This phrase comes from Psalm 37:11, and refers to the Promised Land of Israel. The Promised Land is a symbol of the kingdom of heaven. Our inheritance of “the land” is the gift of heaven, promised to those in Christ’s family.

Attitude Check

God's Plan for His People LIFE NIGHT OUTLINE

4. Discussion Questions:

- a. What does it mean for a teenager to be pure in heart? Is it possible?
- b. What situations or people in your life are blurring your vision of who God is calling you to be?
- c. How does this Beatitude show a need for community?
- f. How can we practically live this Beatitude every day?

G. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called Children of God (Matthew 5: 9)

1. Jesus says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Peacemakers allow the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, to work through them. It is God's will that we experience peace and perform works of peace. We have an obligation, especially to the defenseless and innocent, to work for their peace. Peacemaking allows us to be called God's children.

2. We all have many areas in our life that we are called to be peacemakers. We can be peacemakers in our schools, in our families and in our communities.

3. When we ignore the call to be a peacemaker, we are only a part of the problem. We tend to create situations of division and trouble that tear people down. We tend to gossip and destroy the dignity of others to build up our own.

4. Discussion Questions:

- a. What areas in your life are you being called to be a peacemaker?
- b. What are the challenges in being a peacemaker?
- c. How does this Beatitude show a need for community?
- d. How can we practically live this Beatitude every day?

H. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5: 10)

1. Jesus says, "Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." To be persecuted for Christ is to be united with the men and woman who have died for the faith. The martyrs realized that not even death could keep man from glory and were willing to give their lives to defend the innocent.

1. We must be people of the truth. We must stand up for what is right, even if it is not popular.

2. When we ignore the call to be people of truth and integrity, we compromise our morals, become cowardly and lose sight of the heavenly kingdom that awaits us.

3. Discussion Questions:

- a. What are the most important truths in your life?
- b. Have you ever been persecuted for standing up for what you believe in? Explain.
- c. Have you ever hesitated to speak up because of what people might think or say?
- d. How does this Beatitude show a need for community?
- f. How can we practically live this Beatitude out every day?