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The Beatitudes

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| **Group 1:** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, / for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:3)  (Paragraphs 67–70) What does “being poor of heart” mean in terms of cultivating holiness, and what (unholy behaviors) does it help us avoid? |
| **Group 2:** “Blessed are they who mourn, / for they will be comforted.” (Matthew 5:4)  (Paragraphs 75–76) What does “knowing how to mourn with others” mean in terms of cultivating holiness, and what (unholy behaviors) does it help us avoid? |
| **Group 3:** “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.” (Matthew 5:5)  (Paragraphs 71–74) What does “reacting with meekness and humility” mean in terms of cultivating holiness, and what (unholy behaviors) does it help us avoid? |
| **Group 4:** “Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, / for they will be satisfied.” (Matthew 5:6)  (Paragraphs 77–79) What does “hungering and thirsting for righteousness” mean in terms of cultivating holiness, and what (unholy behaviors) does it help us avoid? |
| **Group 5:** “Blessed are the merciful, / for they will be shown mercy.” (Matthew 5:7)  (Paragraphs 80–82) What does “seeing and acting with mercy” mean in terms of cultivating holiness, and what (unholy behaviors) does it help us avoid? |
| **Group 6:** “Blessed are the clean of heart, / for they will see God.” (Matthew 5:8)  (Paragraphs 83–86) What does “being pure in heart” (or “keeping a heart free of all that tarnishes love”) mean in terms of cultivating holiness, and what (unholy behaviors) does it help us avoid? |
| **Group 7:** “Blessed are the peacemakers, / for they will be called children of God.” (Matthew 5:9)  (Paragraphs 87–89) What does being a peacemaker and “sowing peace all around us” mean in  terms of cultivating holiness, and what (unholy behaviors) does it help us avoid? |
| **Group 8:** “Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, / for theirs is the  kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:10)  (Paragraphs 90–94) What does being persecuted for righteousness sake and “accepting daily the  path of the Gospel, even though it may cause us problems” mean in terms of cultivating holiness?  (*Note:* Unlike the other Beatitudes, this one is about encouragement, not avoiding unholy behaviors. Focus on that.) |

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