

Beatitudes

- Who Are The Citizens?
- Benefits Received?

The Bible says,

- that those who possess certain spiritual qualities, or characteristics, are BLESSED.

A reading of [Matt.5:3-12](#), will make that fact abundantly clear,
Where each verse begins with “BLESSED”.

Of course this text, is what is known as the sermon on the mount (or Mountain – Matt.5:1),
In which Jesus gives 8 spiritual qualities, that have come to be known as the “Beatitudes”,
which is from the Latin word "beatus" meaning “blessed.”

In my mind, I’ve always referred to the Beatitudes, as “Attitudes that we should BE”, thus “Be-Attitudes”.

The sermon on the mount mentions being rewarded with,

- “The kingdom of heaven” ([vs.3, 10](#))
- “Reward in heaven” ([vs.12](#))

...and so, if the Lord wills, we’ll present a lesson on the **Beatitudes**, by asking two questions,
The first of which is...

I. Who Are, The Citizens of The Kingdom of Heaven?

They are the,

A. Poor In Spirit ([Matt.5:3](#))

In contrast to haughtiness and self-reliance.

...not poor financially, but

- Poverty of spirit, which is one’s attitude of self
- An emptying of oneself; having Total Dependence upon God

The publican had poverty of spirit, where the Bible says,

- “standing afar off, would not lift up, so much as his eyes, unto heaven,
but smote upon his breast, saying, **God be merciful to me, a sinner.**” ([Lk.18:13](#))

Jesus said,

- “Verily I say unto you, **EXCEPT** ye be converted, and **BECOME** as little children (that is, humble),
ye shall **NOT** enter into the kingdom of heaven.” ([Matt.18:3](#))

In Contrast with those who are NOT “poor in spirit”, The Bible says that some,

- “**SAYEST**, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;
and knowest **NOT** that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:” ([Rev.3:17](#))

The Kingdom of God can be ours,

- when we realize, our own utter helplessness, without God,
- and learn to Trust and Obey HIM.

Who Are, The Citizens of The Kingdom?

B. Those Who, Mourn... ([Matt.5:4](#))

...over one's own spiritual poverty.

One who is sorry for his\her own sin, and his\her own UNworthiness.

The world seems to gloat over their sinful condition, but christians must be remorseful and sorrowful.

- "For **godly sorrow** worketh repentance to salvation, not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death." ([2Cor.7:10](#)).

Paul said,

- "O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" ([Rom.7:24](#); [2Cor.5:1-2](#)).

To mourn, is something that naturally follows "poor in spirit".

- Mourning for sin, **DRIVES** us **TO** God.

We should Mourn like David did, after his adultery with Bathsheba.

- David said, "For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.
4 Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight:" ([Psa.51:3-4a](#))

Parallel to this Beatitude, is the invitation of [Matt.11:28](#).

- "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are **heavy LADEN**, and I will give your **REST**", Jesus said.

One wise preacher of the past said,

- "There is no difference between "Mourn" from this Beatitude, of our Lord's Sermon on the Mount, and "Heavy Laden" from the Lord's invitation of Matt.11:28."

Who Are, The Citizens of The Kingdom?

C. Those Who Are, Meek ([Matt.5:5](#))

...Strong, but Gentle.

- Approachable; willing to suffer injury, before inflicting injury upon another.
- Tenderhearted with People, but Tough-hearted on Biblical Teaching and Principles.

The Bible says,

- "(Now the man **Moses** was very **MEEK**, above all the men, which were upon the face of the earth.)" ([Num.12:3](#))

...And in [Exodus 32:19](#), we get a glimpse of the spiritual strength and conviction of Moses, which is evidence that Meekness is not synonymous with weakness or timidity.

- "And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the (golden) calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount."

Who are the Meek? Those who,

- "Trust **IN** the Lord, and **Do GOOD**;
so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt **Be** (securely) **FED** (we should feed on His Faithfulness).
4 **Delight** thyself also **IN** the Lord; and He shall **GIVE** thee the desires of thine heart.
5 **Commit** thy way **UNTO** the Lord; Trust also **IN** Him; and He shall bring it to pass (that is, God will act in our favor).
6 He shall bring forth (or bring out) thy righteousness **AS** the light, and thy judgment **AS** the noonday.
7 **Rest IN** the Lord, and **WAIT** patiently **FOR** Him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man, who bringeth (or carries out) wicked devices (or schemes) to pass." ([Psa.37:3-7](#))
- "the **MEEK** shall inherit the earth; and shall **DELIGHT** themselves in the abundance of **PEACE**." ([Psa.37:11](#))

Who Are, The Citizens of The Kingdom?

D. Those Who, Hunger & Thirst for Righteousness ([Matt.5:6](#))

Looking for, and desiring righteousness, which will meet their spiritual poverty.

One seeking righteousness, won't have to be begged to assemble for worship ([Psa.122:1](#); [Heb.10:24-25](#)).

A good appetite is usually a mark of good health ([Heb.5:12-14](#); [1Pet.2:2](#)).

- The Psalmist said, “As the hart panteth after the water brooks,
so panteth my soul after Thee, O God.

² My soul thirsteth for God, for the Living God:

when shall I come and appear before God?” ([Psa.42:1-2](#))

- “The **FEAR** of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever:
the **JUDGMENTS** of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰ More to be **DESIRED** are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold:
sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

¹¹ Moreover by them is thy servant warned:
and in **KEEPING** of them there is great reward.

¹² Who can understand his errors?
cleanseth thou me from secret faults.

¹³ Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright,
and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart,
be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord,
my strength, and my redeemer.” (reads [Psa.19:9-14](#))

- Paul said, “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” ([Phil.3:14](#))
He had great desire for the things of God; he had spiritual hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Who Are, The Citizens of The Kingdom?

E. Those Who Are, Merciful, not cruel – ([Matt.5:7](#))

...Which is Love, toward those in misery.

Forgiveness, toward those who sin against them.

- Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” ([Lk.23:34a](#))

After being stoned for preaching the gospel,

The Bible says that Stephen,

- “kneeling down, and cried with a loud voice,
Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.” ([Acts 7:60](#))

- “For judgment is without mercy, to the one who has shown no mercy.
MERCY triumphs over judgment.” ([Jas.2:13](#) NKJV)

Who Are, The Citizens of The Kingdom?

F. Those Who Are, Pure In Heart ([Matt.5:8](#))

Sincerity, and honesty, without hypocrisy.

- “Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in His Holy place?
⁴ He that hath **CLEAN** hands, and a **PURE HEART**;
who hath **NOT** lifted up his soul unto vanity, **NOR** sworn deceitfully.” ([Psa.24:3-4](#))
- “The **AIM** of our charge, is **LOVE** that issues from a **PURE HEART**
and a **GOOD** conscience, and a **SINCERE** faith.” ([1Tim.1:5](#) ESV)

Who Are, The Citizens of The Kingdom?

G. Those Who Are, Peacemakers, not agitators ([Matt.5:9](#))

...Which involves, EFFORT to be at peace with all men.

- The Bible says, “If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, **live PEACEABLY** with all men.
¹⁹ Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath:
for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.
²⁰ Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink:
for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.
²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but **overcome evil with good**.” ([Rom.12:18-21](#))

Being a Peacemaker involves, helping others to be at peace with God.

- The Bible says, “how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written,
How beautiful are the feet of them that **PREACH** the gospel of **PEACE**,
and bring glad tidings of good things!” ([Rom.10:15](#))

Christians are to have,

- “your feet shod with the **PREPARATION**, of the gospel of **PEACE**,” ([Eph.6:15](#))

Who Are, The Citizens of The Kingdom?

H. Those Who Are, Persecuted For Righteousness’ Sake ([Matt.5:10](#))

...Which would include being Re-proached, and slandered.

- [Acts 14.19-22](#) reads, “And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium,
who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.
²⁰ Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city:
and the next day, he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.
²¹ And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many,
they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, ²² confirming the souls of the disciples,
and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that **we must through much tribulation**
enter into the kingdom of God.” (that’s [Acts 14:19-22](#))
- “For unto you it is given, in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to **suffer for his sake**;
³⁰ having the **same conflict** which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.” ([Phil.1:29-30](#))
- “Yea, and **all that will live godly IN Christ Jesus, shall suffer persecution**.” ([2Tim.3:12](#))

We are discussing the Beatitudes from Matt.5:3-12.

In this context, our goal is to further our study, by asking two questions,
The first of which was, "Who Are, The Citizens of The Kingdom of Heaven?"

The second question is,

II. What Benefits, Do Citizens of The Kingdom Receive?

Summed up in one word: BLESSED.

The Word BLESSED is made understandable, in light of the Benefits Received.

A. Theirs Is, The Kingdom of Heaven

The church is the PRESENT manifestation of the kingdom ([Col.1:12-22](#); [Rom.14:17](#)).
The FUTURE and eternal manifestation, will be heaven.

- "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." ([Matt.5:3](#))
- "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake:
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." ([Matt.5:10](#))

What Benefits, Do Citizens of The Kingdom Receive?

B. They Shall Be, Comforted

...Comforted, even NOW.

- "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of **MERCIES**,
and the God of all **COMFORT**; ⁴ Who **COMFORTETH** us, in all our tribulation,
that we may be able to **COMFORT** them, which are in any trouble,
by the **COMFORT**, wherewith we ourselves, are **COMFORTED** of God." ([2Cor.1:3-4](#))

There shall be eternal COMFORT, in the FUTURE.

- John wrote, "I saw a new heaven and a new earth:
for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.
² And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying,
Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will **DWELL WITH** them, and they shall **BE** His people,
and God Himself shall **BE WITH** them, and **BE** their God. ⁴ And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes;
and there shall be **NO** more death, **NEITHER** sorrow, **NOR** crying, **NEITHER** shall there be any more pain:
for the former things are passed away." ([Rev.21:1-4](#))

What Benefits, Do Citizens of The Kingdom Receive?

C. They Shall, Inherit The Earth

In one sense, inherit now, as a result of putting the kingdom first ([Matt.6:33](#)).

Truly, the life of a christian consist of the best life on this earth, and of that eternal life to come.

- As the Bible says, "...**godliness is profitable unto ALL things, having PROMISE of the LIFE that NOW is** (upon the earth), **AND of that which is to COME**(in Heaven)." ([1Tim.4:8](#))

Christians enjoy the earth, more than the lost.

- "Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God." ([Ecc.5:19](#))

But there remains a promise of a **NEW** order, as the Bible says,

- "the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also, and the works that are therein, shall be burned up.

¹¹ Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be, in all holy conversation (or holy manner of living) and godliness,

¹² looking for, and hasting unto, the coming of the day of God,

wherein the heavens being on fire, shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt, with fervent heat?

¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, **LOOK for NEW** heavens and a **NEW** earth, (a NEW dwelling place is the idea) wherein **DWELLETH righteousness.**" ([2Pet.3:10-13](#))

What Benefits, Do Citizens of The Kingdom Receive?

D. They Shall, Be Filled

...with Righteousness

- Paul said, "I count all things but loss for **the excellency of the KNOWLEDGE of Christ Jesus my Lord:** for whom I have suffered the **LOSS** of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may **WIN** Christ, ⁹ and be found **IN** Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is, through the faith of Christ, **the righteousness which is of God by faith:"** ([Phil.3:8-9](#))

We can be Filled presently, through the precious blood.

- "being **JUSTIFIED freely** by His **GRACE**, through the **REDEMPTION** that is **IN** Christ Jesus: ²⁵ whom God hath set forth, to be a **PROPITIATION** through faith, **IN** His blood, to **DECLARE** His righteousness, for the **REMISSION** of sins that are past, through the **FORBEARANCE** of God;" ([Rom.3:24-25](#))

- "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized INTO Jesus Christ, were baptized INTO His death? ⁴ Therefore we are buried WITH Him, by baptism INTO death: that like **AS** Christ was **RAISED UP** from the dead, by the glory of the Father, even so, we also should **WALK** in newness of **LIFE**.

⁵ For if we have been **PLANTED** together in the likeness of his **DEATH**, we shall be also, in the likeness of his **RESURRECTION**:

⁶ knowing this, that our old man is crucified WITH Him, that the body of sin might be **DESTROYED**, that henceforth we should **NOT serve sin.**" ([Rom.6:3-9](#))

We are spiritually FILLED, when we are adorned in the white linen of righteousness.

- John said, "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife, hath made herself ready. ⁸ And to her was granted, that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen, is the righteousness of saints. ⁹ And He saith unto me, Write, **BLESSED** are they which are called, unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And He saith unto me, These are the **TRUE** sayings of God." ([Rev.19:7-9](#))

What Benefits, Do Citizens of The Kingdom Receive?

E. They Shall, Obtain Mercy

Forgiveness of sins through the blood of Jesus.

- “and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that **LOVED** us, and **WASHED** us from our sins, **IN** His own blood,” ([Rev.1:5](#); [Acts 22:16](#))

We can escape the wrath of God, in the Day of Judgment.

- “Much more then, being now **JUSTIFIED** by His blood, we shall be **SAVED** from wrath **THROUGH** Him.” ([Rom.5:9](#))

The Bible says, it was,

- “**NOT** by works of righteousness which we have done, **BUT** according to His **MERCY** He **SAVED** us, by the **WASHING** of regeneration, and **RENEWING** of the Holy Spirit;” ([Titus 3:5](#))

What Benefits, Do Citizens of The Kingdom Receive?

F. They Shall, See God

Presently we enjoy God through our Lord Jesus.

- Jesus said, “I **AM** the **WAY**, the **TRUTH**, and the **LIFE**: **NO** man cometh unto the Father, but **BY Me**.
⁷ **IF** ye had known Me, ye should have known My Father also:” ([Jn.14:6-7a](#))

In the future, we shall be with Him.

- John said, “I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.” ([Rev.21:3](#))

What Benefits, Do Citizens of The Kingdom Receive?

G. They Shall, Be Called Sons

- “Behold, what manner of **LOVE**, the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be **called the sons of God**: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not.
² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall **see Him as He is**.” ([1Jn.3:1-2](#))
- “And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. ⁶ And He said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.
⁷ He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and **I will be his God, and he shall be My son**.” ([Rev.21:5-7](#))
- “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,
¹⁸ and **will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters**, saith the Lord Almighty.” ([2Cor.6:17-18](#))

III. IN-CLOSING

Truly, citizens of the Kingdom are BLESSED.

The benefits of the kingdom, outweigh anything this world has to offer, or any persecution, it might inflict.

But it is only for those who have the spiritual characteristics, of citizens, And have them, in ever-increasing measure ([2Pet.3:18](#)).

If you have a spiritual need and desire to be citizens of the kingdom, Won't you demonstrate your,

- Active **Belief** in God and His Word ([Jn.8:24](#); [Heb.11:6](#)),
- Through a Changed life of, **Repentance** ([Matt.21:28-30](#); [Lk.13:3](#); [Acts 11:18](#); [Acts 17:30](#)),
- Through unashamed, **Confession** of Christ ([Acts 8:37](#); [Matt.10:32-33](#); [Rom.10:9-10](#))
- Through your contact with the cleansing blood of Christ, In **Baptism** ([Rom.6:3-4](#); [Col.2:12-13](#))
- Through your **Endurance** or **Faithfulness** until the End ([Matt.24:13](#); [Rev.2:10](#))

Come without delay,
While together, we stand and sing.

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