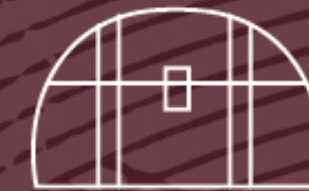


# MATTHEW



What is the good life?

Who are the good people?

# The Sermon on the Mount



**What are the  
Beatitudes?**

# Historical approaches to the Beatitudes

- **Two-Tiered Ethic**
- **Idealism**
- **Impossible Ideal**
- **Be-Attitudes**
- **Blessings**

**Makarios**

Macarisms cast a vision for life that includes an implicit invitation. Beatitudes are description, and commendations, of the good life. As prophet and sage, Jesus is offering and inviting his hearts into the way of being in the world that will result in their true and full flourishing now and in the age to come.

Jonathan Pennington



Makarios refers to the highest type of well-being possible for human beings, but it is also the term the Greeks used for the kind of blissful existence characteristic of the gods.

Dallas Willard

Do we seek happiness because we're sinners or because we're human? Should faith in God be dragged forward by duty or propelled by delight? Must we choose between holiness and happiness?

Randy Alcorn

The Gospel is also the Gospel of happiness. It is called 'the glorious Gospel of the blessed God.' A more correct translation would be, 'the happy God.' Well, then, adorn the Gospel by being happy!

Charles Spurgeon

# Beatitudes

- Poor in Spirit
- Mourn
- Meek
- Hungering & Thirsting for Righteousness/Justice
- Merciful
- Pure in Heart
- Peacemakers
- Persecuted for Righteousness/Justice
- Insulted & Persecuted in Jesus' Name

The only way these macarisms can be true is if you hear them through the reality of the gospel of the kingdom

**Deliverance**

The broader Greco-Roman world of the first century was highly conscious of status, producing a stratified social system based on various kinds of status (e.g., rich over poor, aristocratic over peasant, male over female, free over slave). Various words and phrases in the beatitudes are best understood from this context and can be described as status language, even though a contemporary reader may not initially hear the language in this way (e.g., “poor in spirit,” “meek”). This suggests a reading of the beatitudes as an announcement of status reversals that accompany the arrival of God’s kingdom.

Jeannine Brown

Hope



# Participation

This evasion of the concrete teachings of Jesus has seriously malformed Christian moral practices, moral beliefs, and moral witness. Jesus taught that the test of our discipleship is whether we act on his teachings, whether we 'put into practice' his words. This is what it means to 'build our house on rock' (Mt 7:24).

Glenn Stassen & David Gushee

The poor in spirit will be making the kingdom of heaven happen. The meek will be taking over the earth, so gently that the powerful won't notice until it's too late. The peacemakers will be putting the arms manufacturers out of business.

Those who are hungry and thirsty for God's justice will be analyzing government policy and legal rulings and speaking up on behalf of those at the bottom of the pile. The merciful will be surprising everybody by showing that there is a different way to do human relations other than being judgmental and eager to put everyone else down. 'You are the light of the world,' said Jesus.

'You are the salt of the earth.' He was announcing a program yet to be completed. he was inviting his hearers, then and now, to join him in making it happen. This is, quite simply, what it looks like when Jesus is enthroned.

NT Wright



# MATTHEW



Being born again happens in an instant. Learning to live as a child of God takes a lifetime.

Dr. Derwin Gray

