

Beatitudes

Church of the Beatitudes



Jesus' words in **RED**. Scriptures in **BLACK**.

Here is a picture of the **Church of the Beatitudes** in Israel. As you can see, it's an octagonal-shaped (8-sided) building. Each of the eight sides symbolizes one of the eight beatitudes described in Matthew 5:3-11.

The word "Beatitudes" is not mentioned in Scripture but is derived from the Latin word "blessedness," which refers to joy. So, when Jesus proclaimed the Eight Beatitudes, He promised joy. This is in stark contrast with the Law. When Moses brought down the Ten Commandments, the Law said: "You will not," which produced fear and condemnation.

The Beatitudes speak of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, foreshadowed in the Old Testament.

Jesus said, "The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor..."

Let's consider Jesus's intent to proclaim the joy of the Gospel.

Each of the eight Beatitudes spoken by Jesus begins with, "**Oh, the joy of.**"

The sixth "Beatitude" is an explanation of our ministry verse.

-1-

“Blessed (Oh, the joy of) are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Everyone is “broken,” though not everyone will admit it. Therefore, everyone must come to the end of themselves (poor in Spirit). “I can’t do life on my own. I need a rescuer. I need a Savior.”

“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:18

The Apostle Paul knew what it meant to be broken and in need of the Savior. We need the Gospel of Jesus Christ daily.

“To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times, I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” 2 Corinthians 12:7–10

-2-

“Blessed (Oh, the joy of) are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

As we read God’s Word and His Holy Spirit convicts us of sin—we mourn. And the Father comforts us: “Yes, you are forgiven.”

“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.” 2 Corinthians 7:10

-3-

“Blessed (Oh, the joy of) are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”

The World says you must be self-assertive, manipulative, and aggressive to get what you want. But the meek “will inherit the earth in God’s economy.” Meekness is power with restraint. A synonym for meek is humility. Jesus was humble and meek.

Jesus said, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle [meek] and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28–30

Good Mood Foundation

Christ-followers understand that they have been bought with a price: the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Therefore, they relinquish their “rights” and turn over complete control of their lives to the Heavenly Father. Christ-followers are humble and meek. They operate in the strength and power of the Lord. The meek chooses to follow the Lord’s example.

“To this, you were called because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his steps. “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him, who judges justly.” 1 Peter 2:21–25

-4-

“Blessed (Oh, the joy of) are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

Christ-followers have left the pursuits of this World, money, sex, power, etc., behind. These things do not satisfy or fill the void in their hearts. Christ-followers hunger for God.”

“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.” Psalm 42:1–2

Christ-followers understand that nothing they do will produce righteousness-right standing with God.

“All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.” Isaiah 64:6

Therefore, when we believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, God credits our account with the righteousness of Jesus Christ. This righteousness comes from faith in the Gospel.

“For in the gospel, a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” Romans 1:16–17

Christ-followers seek first—His kingdom and righteousness.

Jesus said, “Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear... “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon, in all his splendor, was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you...But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:25-34

“Blessed (Oh, the joy of) are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

God is merciful.

“Because of the LORD’s great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22–23

By His mercy, God called us into His kingdom.

“At one time, we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived, and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God, our Savior, appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.” Titus 3:3–7

By His Mercy, He has forgiven our sins, given us new life, and promised eternal life.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in Heaven for you.” 1 Peter 1:3–4

Christ-followers are to go into the World and extend the same mercy God extended to us—to others.

Jesus said, “But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ lend to ‘sinners,’ expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” Luke 6:27–36

-6-

“Blessed (Oh, the joy of) are the pure in heart, for they will be shown mercy.” merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

The pure in heart are clean, blameless, and unstained from guilt. That was David’s desire.

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10

But in the Old Covenant, God’s face could not be seen.

“Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory...But,” he [the Lord] said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live...Then I will remove my hand, and you will see my back, but my face must not be seen.” Exodus 33:18–23

Therefore, by believing in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, God forgives our sins. He also gives us a pure heart that is clean, blameless, and unstained from guilt. God also enables us to see HIM.

“He [Jesus Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him, all things were created: things in Heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him, all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him.” Colossians 1:15–23

-7-

“Blessed (Oh, the joy of) is the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

Jesus Christ is the author of peace and the Prince of Peace.

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom...But the wisdom that comes from Heaven is, first of all, pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.” James 3:13–18

The world system is adversarial, but Christ-followers are called NOT to follow the world system. Therefore, when Christ-followers follow the ways of being peacemakers, they are recognized as ‘children of God.

“Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?” 1 Corinthians 6:7–8



Pictured is my wife, Michelle, at the “Church of the Beatitudes.” She is a peacemaker.

-8-

“Blessed (Oh, the joy of) are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Christ-followers will be persecuted for living out the Gospel. Therefore, Christ-followers understand that persecution comes with being His child and part of His kingdom—the kingdom of Heaven.”

“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” 2 Timothy 3:10–12

“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.” 1 Peter 4:12–19

Jesus said, “If the World hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the World, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the World, but I have chosen you out of the World. That is why the World hates you...If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me.” John 15:18–21