

March 29, 2021

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:3-10*

In His famous Sermon on the Mount, Jesus enumerated **'the blessed'**. 'The blessed' are those who are comforted, who receive mercy and are filled. 'The blessed' are those who have the kingdom of heaven and who not only will see God, but are also called the children of God.

If one will focus on the rewards of the blessed, a deep-seated stirring of assurance will well up in the soul, because the qualities of the blessed are not what one imagines. The qualities of the blessed are not charisma, wealth, leadership abilities or influential power. In His enumeration of the blessed, Jesus exposed the depth, breadth and height of His salvation.

The poor in spirit and the one that mourns are qualities born out of injustice and inequality. These circumstances often result in the trait of meekness, an avoidance of confrontation and coercion and an acceptance of a bad situation. It produces a hungering and thirsting after righteousness, because righteousness is the opposite of injustice.

It is in this spot that Jesus delivers a beautiful promise. The promise that *'those that hunger and thirst after righteousness, they will be filled.'*

It is here that the beatitudes become a map on how to navigate this world of suffering and injustice. Jesus is saying that no matter how unfair life is, seek righteousness and you will be filled. Out of righteousness come the qualities of being merciful, being pure in heart, being peacemakers, and being willing to suffer persecution to stay connected to Jesus.

Many in the world today are depressed and hurting; poor in spirit and mourning. The choice of how to react in order to achieve a sense of justice can be with vindictiveness, revenge and anger; or a quiet resolve to seek something better, something Godly. With a few well-chosen words, Jesus has shown how to assuage our feelings of victimization at all the injustice that surrounds us. He promises us comfort, mercy, and an inheritance of eternity. Because *Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8)*, those words are still true for us today.