



THE *Sermon* ON THE *Mount*

Christian Life Center, A Foursquare Church | 951-689-6785

THE BEATITUDES Part 2

The Beatitudes describe eight characteristics of Kingdom followers that set the stage for the rest of this great sermon. (We'll highlight just a couple of them.) When Jesus says we're blessed, He's talking about something deeper than being happy. The word He uses is being favored by God, fortunate, and privileged. It's a blessing that doesn't depend on our circumstances but on our relationship with God. (Scan the QR code to view the full teaching on the Beatitudes)



- 1. Our world is FULL of distractions.** So many (good and bad) things compete for our time and our affection for God. Sometimes, without even realizing it, we become so focused on everything around us that we lose sight of God. Our intimacy becomes impersonal and "religious." The problem isn't that God is distant; it's that we've allowed other things to get in the way.

The promise in Matthew 5:8 *Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*

- 2. Purity (Matthew 5:8) is not sinless perfection...** it is a surrendered heart toward God. People who saw God were not flawless but humble, obedient, hungry for Him, and aware of their own unworthiness (Isaiah 6:5-7). They were people who turned to God in times of weakness and failure and responded to Him with humility, repentance, worship, and obedience.
- 3. One of the greatest threats to intimacy with God isn't rebellion... it's distraction!**
 - Mark 4:18-19 *Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of*

wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.

- Just as weeds choke the Word and keep it from producing fruit, competing desires and worldly distractions can crowd out God's presence in us.
- A pure heart continually seeks to remove anything that eclipses its view of God. The less we allow to compete with Him, the more clearly we see Him and the more fruitful our lives become.

4. An example of the result of intimacy with God.

- Acts 10 shows what can happen when people walk closely with God. Because of the faith of Cornelius, a Roman centurion, and Peter's willingness to hear and obey the Holy Spirit, a door was opened for the Gentile world to receive the gospel. This was a major turning point in the history of Christianity!

5. Making it personal.

- Make room for God every day. (James 4:8)
- Ask Him to show you what's really going on in your heart. (Psalm 139:23–24)
- Pay attention to thoughts and distractions that pull your focus away from Him. (2 Corinthians 10:5)
- Be honest with God and keep “short accounts.” (1 John 1:9)
- Daily surrender anything that's competing with God for your heart. (Matthew 6:33)

6. Question: What am I holding on to that might be keeping me from experiencing a deeper intimacy with God and a greater sensitivity to the Holy Spirit?

My Prayer...

Psalm 51:10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and create a steadfast, committed, and dedicated spirit in me.

LORD, help me to recognize anything in my life that doesn't please You and give me the willingness to let it go. Amen!