

* Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

We need God and others. We need to reject selfishness and seek the good of others. We depend on God for everything. Nothing else in life is more important than God.

* Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Reminds us that suffering is part of being human. Jesus says that our suffering, like His, can open our hearts to others and their suffering. Sin, evil, and suffering in the world hurt our hearts. We trust that God comforts anyone who suffers from loss or injustice and we reach out to anyone who needs to be comforted.

* Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the land.

Meekness is strength guided by love. We should be generous. We have nothing to lose & don't force ourselves on others. We humbly remember that all we have comes from God & we share these gifts with kindness and patience serving God and others.

* Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

When we don't want or take the easy way out we end up the most satisfied. We should be fair and just towards others. We want God's peace, love, and justice to rule in the world. We work for equality and truth. We share our gifts with those in need.

* Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy.

Mercy means seeing the world & treating it and all in it with compassion. We accept others & are concerned about their feelings & we forgive anyone who has hurt us.

* Blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God.

We should have only one focus in mind- to do God's will. We keep our minds and hearts focused outward on God and not on ourselves, seeking good and avoiding evil. This helps us see God in everything and everyone. To keep God first in our lives is to be pure in heart.

* Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Everyone wants & admires peace. Jesus says we should do something about it. Peacemakers face up to the challenges of building strong relationships between people. We should bring peace & reconciliation into the lives of others & treat others fairly. We work to be a sign for others of God's forgiveness. We pray for peace and unity in our family, in the community, and in the world. We work to settle arguments.

* Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Reminds us that following Jesus can make us appear crazy to others. Still we walk God's way. Willing to be ignored or insulted for doing what we feel God wants we will share in God's kingdom. We continue Jesus' mission in the world. We speak out in all situations where God's peace, love, and justice are not allowed to rule; standing up for our beliefs even when made fun of or criticized.