

YOU ARE FORGIVEN – THE BEATITUDES

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

Poor in spirit – to recognize our need for God, depending completely on him and not being attached to the things of this world

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Mourn – we mourn for our sins and for the sins of the whole world

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Meek – to practice gentleness rather than give in to anger or discouragement

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Hunger & thirst for righteousness – to seek first God's kingdom & to do his will

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Merciful – we cannot expect God to forgive our sins if we are unwilling to forgive others

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

Pure of heart – loving and following God unreservedly

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be sons of God.

Peacemaker – to share the Gospel message of God's peace with others

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Persecuted – to take up our cross and follow after Christ, even in the face of persecution, "rejoicing that we [have been] counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name" of Jesus (Acts 5:41)