
LIVING THE BEATITUDES

HEIRS OF THE KING

A guide to inspire conversation in
the group and personal
introspection

*Thank you for joining me on this journey as we
consider what it means to live the Beatitudes*

Melanie Gordon

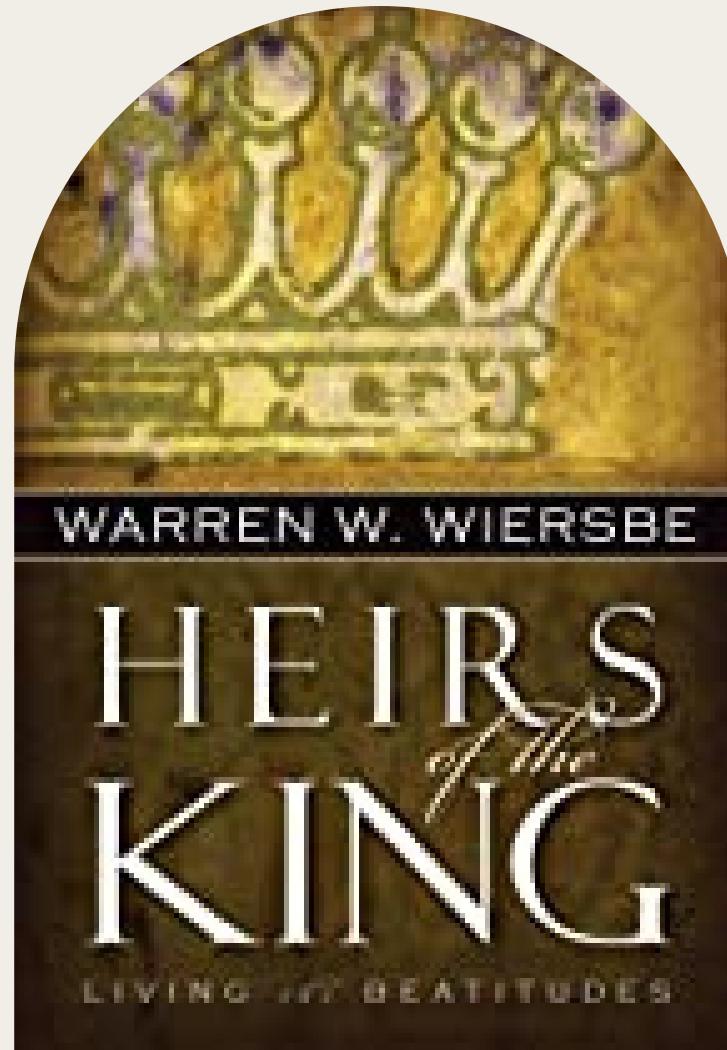


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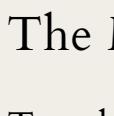
The Poor In Spirit

Tuesday, January 17 from 7-8 pm via Zoom



The Mourners

Tuesday, January 24 from 7-8 pm via Zoom



The Meek

Tuesday, January 31 from 7-8 pm via Zoom



The Hungry & Thirsty

Tuesday, February 7 from 7-8 pm via Zoom



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The Pure Heart

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The Persecuted

Tuesday, March 7 from 7-8 pm via Zoom

Matthew 9:38



"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the harvest field"

What does it mean to be ‘blessed’?

From Biblical times to the present day, prosperity and good health have been viewed as God’s blessing. Poverty, lack of achievements and sickness have been seen as evidence of God’s judgements and the withholding by God of His blessings as punishment for hidden (or obvious) sin. This version of blessing, reflects our earth-bound mindset. It holds us bound in a physical time-space existence. It forces us to view God’s promises within a context our physical time-space existence can comprehend. Human power and social importance figure greatly in this physical perception.

Then Jesus came and shattered our image of physical blessedness and human power. As Jesus spoke the sermon on the Mount of Olives, he challenged these perceptions of blessedness and the identity of those who are ‘blessed’. He lifts our thoughts to a completely different plane. Christ defines spiritual blessedness in three points:

1. It is not the result of human performance
2. It aligns with promises of God found in other New Testament scripture that are for all who believe
3. It is the result of a declaration of God

Jesus defines the identity of every genuine believer, every genuine disciple. It is not something we generate for ourselves, it is what we already are, in union with Christ Jesus. It is also our calling. Christ calls us to live our blessedness daily.

Shine our light. Be the salt of the earth.



The Poor in Spirit

The ‘poor in spirit’ are those who have ceased to trust in themselves. They come before God as beggars, surrendered to His will and generosity. They are completely dependent to God for any hope of acceptance, peace, forgiveness, love, removal of condemnation and salvation.

Martyn Lloyd-Jones writes that the ‘poor in spirit’ does not mean:

1. Being diffident, nervous, retiring, weak or lacking in courage
2. Glorifying in one’s poverty of spirit or one’s humility
3. Suppressing your personality

Martyn Lloyd-Jones goes on to teach that to be ‘poor in spirit’ is:

1. A complete absence of pride
2. A complete absence of self-assurance and self-reliance
3. A consciousness that we are nothing in the presence of God; a tremendous awareness of our utter nothingness as we come face to face with God.

This poverty of spirit recognizes that we stand guilty, condemned and empty-handed in the presence of God. We trust not in ourselves but in God alone.

Questions to Consider

- Why does being ‘poor in spirit’ bring blessings?
- How can we cultivate humility?

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

Psalm 28:7

Those Who Mourn

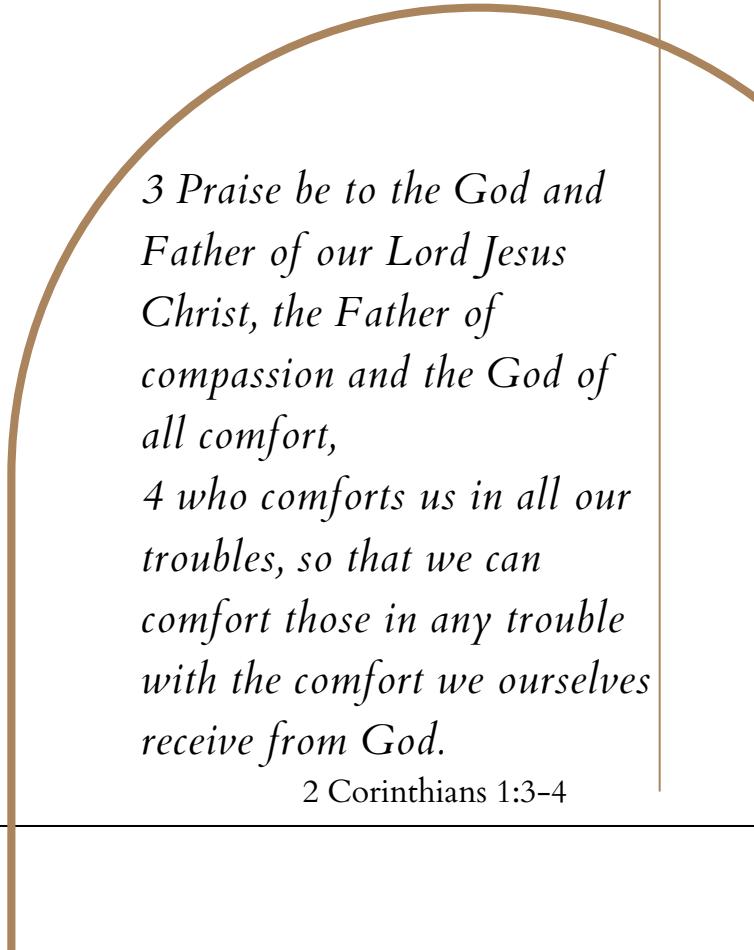
Jesus is not speaking of those who mourn the physical death of a loved one. He is teaching about a deep, fundamental grief that rocks the innermost being of those who know and love the Lord Jesus.

1. We mourn because of our own sin and failures
2. We grieve for the sinfulness of the world around us

The Holy Spirit, as the Great Comforter indwells and comforts the grieving disciple. His reassurance affirms that God is working His purpose out and that nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Questions to Consider

- Does God expect His children to repent?
- What kind of comfort does Christ promise those who mourn?



*3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,
4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.*

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Blessed are the Meek

The word used by Jesus in Matthew 5:5 is *praus*, which means ‘mild, gentle, humble, kind, forgiving’. It is a state of mind. Jesus used the same word to describe himself in Matthew 11:29: ‘I am gentle and humble in heart...’ To be meek is to live in such a way that wants no glory for self but is willing to be thought of as nothing in order to achieve what is good and beneficial to others. Meekness is a very deliberate, proactive choice. It is not an inevitable passive behavior. It is Jesus choosing NOT to call down legions of angels to destroy the roman soldiers nailing Him to a cross. It is our salvation.

Questions to Consider

- How can you and I tell whether we are meek?
- What is my attitude towards the unsaved?



Those Who Thirst & Hunger

True righteousness is not external conformity to God's laws; it is not righteousness in the sight of men. Recognizing her own guilt, the true believer has ceased to trust in her own performance and depends completely on the righteousness of Christ. There is a unity to the life of the person whose deepest desire is to know and please God.

Questions to Consider

- What do we hunger for today?
- How is God revealed in our everyday lives for others to see?
- How can believers in today's culture share the Living Water with the unsaved?



Blessed are the Merciful

Jesus began the Beatitudes establishing our utter dependence on God. Having received immeasurable mercy from God, we are called to extend that same mercy to others in relationship with us. Being merciful is a state of mind and a constant attitude towards our neighbors even if love and mercy seem undeserved. Jesus taught that the absence of mercy indicates that one has not embraced the mercy of God offered in the Gospel. It is incongruent for one to receive God's mercy for her own shortcomings and sin yet continue to exact justice from her neighbors.

Questions to Consider

- How can a person practice mercy in a competitive society?
- How can showing mercy heal wounds and turn suffering into joy?
- In the example drawn from John 8: 2-11 who suffered in order for the woman to receive mercy?



The Pure in Heart

Being pure in heart does not mean to be ‘sinless’ or ‘perfect’. We have learned that true disciples of Christ mourn over their sin, hunger and thirst for God’s righteousness and, having received immeasurable mercy, extend mercy to others. The true disciple praises God because God is worthy of praise, loves God because God is altogether lovely and serves God because she knows there is no other master to whom her service and obedience and devotion is due. This is the purity of heart the disciple of Jesus Christ possesses because we know Jesus Christ our Lord is worthy of all praise and obedience even if Jesus had not died on the cross to obtain our forgiveness. God alone is worthy. We see this purity of heart in Moses, who desired to know and to see God and to whom God gave a revelation of himself (Ex. 33:12-34)

Questions to Consider

- Can the heart be changed?
- How can we cultivate our heart today to know and worship God?

...neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:39

The Peacemakers

'Peace' is the one-word summary of the Gospel. The true disciple of Jesus Christ is an ambassador of this Gospel of peace. We do this by verbally proclaiming the message of reconciliation

{2 Corinthians 5:17-21}, and by demonstrating the reality of Gospel reconciliation and peace in relationship with others.

Beginning with the fifth Beatitude, the blessings bestowed are the attributes of God: mercy, purity, peace.

Questions to Consider

- What are some ways we can demonstrate peacemaking without compromise or hypocrisy in today's culture?
- Why was Paul accused of being a troublemaker (Acts 24:5)?



The Persecuted

In the current era there is reportedly more persecution because of the name of Jesus than in any other period in history. The reality is that if we demonstrate righteousness in a fallen world, many will reject us. Speaking up for a coworker who is the victim of gossip or befriending an outsider can bring condemnation and persecution to the true disciple of Christ. The eighth beatitude serves as a reminder that shining our light in a fallen world requires courage.

Facts to Consider

Many Christians in Saudi Arabia are migrant workers who are already abused for their minority status. Pray for the secret Saudi believers who must hide their faith from family and friends. Ask God to help them know they are not alone.

The persecution of Christians in India is intensifying as Hindu extremists aid to cleanse the country of their presence and influence. This is leading to a systemic and carefully orchestrated targeting of Christians and other religious minorities, including the use of social media to spread disinformation and stir up hatred. Pray for the Christians in India. Ask God to quiet the panic and extend His protection, strength and peace to all believers in India. God is the God of miracles, pray for a miracle in India.



*"Holy Father, I pray
please give me the courage
to set my candle on a
lampstand and surrender
my character, the kind you
describe in the Beatitudes
to be a witness of Your
Grace"*

Amen

Conclusion

The lost may not agree with our theology or way of life but they will see in us qualities they lack and would like to possess. Jesus made sinners thirsty for what he offered. The more we are like Jesus the more others in our sphere are attracted to our life and our witness as the salt of the earth. Showing Christian love is our ministry to the glory of God. Wherever we are placed may our light shine and bring others to the safe harbor of God's kingdom.

Sources & Bibliography

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