

A different vision of the good life. Matt. 5:1-16

Blessed

Matthew 5: Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

² *And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:*

³ *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

So different

Blessed are the rich and powerful, for they enjoy the good life now. – we’ve seen it when we’ve been taken through their houses or holidays on all sorts of lifestyle programs, and they even get a better ride in quarantine, or coming back to Australia because they can afford business class

Blessed are the always cheerful and laughing, for they know no pain or cares [and are good to be around, not a pain like the glum]

Blessed are those who insist on their own rights and way, for they get their own way, what they know they deserve – and that is satisfying and empowering

Blessed are the morally flexible who leave God out of the picture and the cynical who know nothing really matters, for they can get on with everyone, they move on much more easily [and often they sleep better at night]

Blessed are those who know charity starts at home and make sure free loaders aren’t indulged, for they will always have enough to look after themselves

Blessed are those whose feet are firmly planted on the ground and are not directed in life by anything other than being true to themselves, for they will realise their ambitions

Blessed are those who can live with workable compromises that are not too costly, for it allows us all to get on with our own business

Blessed are those who always live in tune with the spirit of the age for they will always be popular

Blessed are you Christian when you keep a low profile, blend in, and keep your faith in Jesus to yourself. Rejoice, because you will be allowed to participate in society and enjoy all its benefits now in this the best of all possible worlds, just like everyone else.

^{1,3} *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [Ps. 70:5, 34:6; Is. 57:15, 61:1, 66:2]*

Blessed are the rich and powerful, for they enjoy the good life now.

Luke 18:⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:¹⁰ "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

2. ⁴ *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. [Isaiah 61:1-4, Ps. 119:136,125:5-6; Luke 19:41, Rom. 9:2]*

Blessed are the always cheerful and laughing, for they know no pain or cares [and are good to be around, not a pain like the glum]

*Psalm 119:¹³⁶ My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your law.*

3. ⁵ *"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. [Psalm 37:11, Numbers 12:3, Matt. 11:28; Phil. 2:3-5]*

Blessed are those who insist on their own rights and way, for they get what they know they deserve

4. ⁶ *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

Blessed are the morally flexible who leave God out of the picture, the cynical who know nothing really matters, for they can get on with everyone [and they sleep better at night]

5. ⁷ *"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. [Luke 10:37, Matt. 9:27; Prov. 19:17, 24:11-12; Matt. 18:21-35].*

Blessed are those who know charity starts at home and make sure free loaders aren't indulged, for they will always have enough to look after themselves

6. ⁸ *"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. [Deut. 6:5, Psalm 15, 24]*

Blessed are those whose feet are firmly planted on the ground and are not directed in life by anything other than pleasing themselves/ being true to themselves, for they will realise their ambitions

7. ⁹ *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. [Isaiah 48:22, 57:14-21; Col. 1:20, Eph. 2:11-22]*

Blessed are those who can live with workable compromises that are not too costly, for it allows us all to get on with our own business

8. ¹⁰ *"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

¹¹ *"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

Blessed are those who always live in tune with the spirit of the age for they will always be popular

Blessed are you Christian when you keep a low profile, blend in, and keep Jesus as just a private thing. Rejoice, because you will be allowed to participate in society and enjoy all its benefits now in this the best of all possible worlds, like the rest of us.

So Good

So Certain

Luke 19:41-44, Matthew 11:28-29, John 4:34, Mark 3:20, John 6:38, Ephesians 2:14-18, Luke 23:46

*Psalm 31: In you, O LORD, do I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me!*

² *Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily!*

*Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me!*

³ *For you are my rock and my fortress;
and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me;*

⁴ *you take me out of the net they have hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.*

⁵ *Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.*

Pursue and embrace the good life