

The Beatitudes for Today

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

When we lay aside our self-sufficiency and our pride and come to God in humility and gratitude then we are lucky, we are to be congratulated. We are blessed because now, finally, we are ready to be involved in what God is doing in our world.

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

When the pain, suffering and injustice that diminishes the lives of those all around us moves us to action we are to be congratulated. We are lucky. We are blessed because we will find comfort in working alongside our Creator to make our world a better place.

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

When we empty ourselves and ask God to fill us and guide us we lose our sense of self-importance. We don't have less courage, power or determination. We now have control over it. We carry it gently and with humility. When this happens to you, then Congratulations! You are lucky. You are blessed. You can live and walk through this world as if you are the Beloved child of the One who owns it all. You are!

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

When we hunger, thirst, pine, long, ache for justice to be experienced by everyone, to the point that we do something about it, then we are lucky. We are to be congratulated. We are blessed because we will have important work in which to invest our lives. God wants us to chew on that!

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

When we are moved by compassion to act on behalf of another (mercy) and we extend forgiveness to those who have hurt us, as we have been forgiven (mercy), and when we generously give of our possessions to meet the needs of others (mercy) and when our judgment about other people is tempered with

compassion (mercy) then we are to be congratulated. We are lucky. We are blessed because the mercy of God resides in us. We live and breathe it every day.

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

When you are totally committed to God, singularly focused on God, then you are to be congratulated. You are lucky. You are blessed because you will be able to see God in the world around us, in the faces of others and in your own life.

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

If you are actively engaged in peacemaking, helping reconcile people to God and people to each other and you know that the way to lasting peace is not through violence and retaliation but through forgiveness and love, then you are to be congratulated. You are lucky. You are blessed because your life resembles the life Jesus lived and everyone can see the family resemblance.

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

If you are being persecuted for your words or actions that actively arise from following Jesus and living by his new way of life, then you are to be congratulated. You are lucky! You are Blessed because you get a front row seat with Jesus and the prophets to see what God is doing in the world.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

When people hate you, insult you, persecute you and say evil things about you because your love for Jesus cannot be restrained, then you are to be congratulated. You are lucky! You are blessed because in addition to what God has prepared for you in the future, right now you are known by the company you keep, and you are in great company!