

The “ME”-Attitudes (Mat. 5:1-12)

Introduction: Jesus opened the Sermon on the Mount with the *Beatitudes*, His formula for service. Opposite them sit the “ME-Attitudes”, a philosophy that is more self-serving. See for yourself.

Blessed are the ~~poor~~ sure in spirit.

Such we are when we don't realize that spiritual success is being able to admit our failures before God.

“What will finally destroy us is not communism, not fascism, but man acting like God” (Malcolm Muggeridge).

Blessed are those who ~~mourn~~ scorn.

It's hard to face the reality of being a sinner when you don't think you ever sin.

This involves having no sorrow for sin but a disdain for boundaries and restraints and for the guilt that comes from going beyond them.

Blessed are the ~~meek~~ weak.

“I can't control myself.” “I'm not strong enough to resist.”

That's the easy way out and the language of someone who has never tried.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for ~~righteousness~~ their rights.

Instead of appealing to the Lord's judgment, our causes must be upheld and avenged, no matter the cost.

But even Jesus kept “entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously” (1 Pet. 2:23).

Blessed are the ~~merciful~~ merciless.

We attain the height of selfishness when we demand treatment from others that we're not willing to extend to them.

We have been forgiven; therefore, we must be forgiving.

Blessed are the ~~pure~~ poor in heart.

“Why me? What have I done?”

When difficulties arise, the question we ought to ask is “what can I do about it?”

Blessed are the ~~peacemakers~~ piece makers.

Some people seem to be experts at dividing and splintering. They would rather tear down than build up, pull apart than patch together.

If we can't make peace with one another, how will we ever be at peace with God?

Blessed are those who are ~~persecuted~~ praised for the sake of righteousness.

Through it all, we expect to be applauded for our “endurance” and lauded for our “suffering.”

If we will take care of the humility, the Lord will see to the exaltation (1 Pet. 5:6).

Conclusion Jesus' *Beatitudes* are what make His people the salt of the earth. Following the MEAttitudes" destines you to become bitter. So, the choice is yours. Through which is God glorified? Through which is Christ seen living in us? To whom does service belong — to me or not to me? That is the question.

(A special thanks to Bubba Garner for this basis for this lesson.)