

KEY LESSONS FROM THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT / *Matthew 5:3*

In his longest recorded sermon, Jesus began by describing the traits he was looking for in his followers. He called those who lived out those traits blessed because God had something special in store for them. Each beatitude is an almost direct contradiction of society's typical way of life. In the last beatitude, Jesus even points out that a serious effort to develop these traits is bound to create opposition. The best example of each trait is found in Jesus himself. If our goal is to become like him, the Beatitudes will challenge the way we live each day.

Beatitude	Old Testament anticipation	Clashing worldly values	God's reward	How to develop this attitude
Realize need for God (5:3)	Isaiah 57:15	Pride and personal independence	Kingdom of Heaven	James 4:7-10
Mourn (5:4)	Isaiah 61:1-2	Happiness at any cost	Comfort (2 Corinthians 1:4)	Psalms 51; James 4:7-10
Gentle and lowly (5:5)	Psalms 37:5-11	Power	Receive the earth	Matthew 11:27-30
Hunger and thirst for justice (5:6)	Isaiah 11:4-5; 42:1-4	Pursuing personal needs	See it happen	John 16:5-11; Philippians 3:7-11
Merciful (5:7)	Psalms 41:1	Strength without feeling	Be shown mercy	Ephesians 5:1-2
Pure in heart (5:8)	Psalms 24:3-4; 51:10	Deception is acceptable	See God	1 John 3:1-3
Work for peace (5:9)	Isaiah 57:18-19; 60:17	Personal peace is pursued without concern for the world's chaos	Be called children of God	Romans 12:9-21; Hebrews 12:10-11
Persecuted (5:10)	Isaiah 52:13; 53:12	Weak commitments	Inherit the Kingdom of Heaven	2 Timothy 3:12