

THE UNBEATITUDES / *Matthew 5:3*

We can understand the Beatitudes by looking at them from their opposites. Some, Jesus implied, will not be blessed. Their condition could be described this way:

Wretched are the spiritually self-sufficient, for theirs is the kingdom of hell.

Wretched are those who deny the tragedy of their sinfulness, for they will be troubled.

Wretched are the self-centered, for they will be empty.

Wretched are those who ceaselessly justify themselves, for their efforts will be in vain.

Wretched are the merciless, for no mercy will be shown to them.

Wretched are those with impure hearts, for they will not see God.

Wretched are those who reject peace, for they will earn the title “sons of Satan.”

Wretched are the uncommitted for convenience's sake, for their destination is hell.