

The Kingdom Life — (1)
The Beatitudes: Kingdom Character
Matthew 5:1–12

Introduction: Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount with **character**. The Beatitudes describe the kind of people we are becoming when Jesus is truly King. Kingdom character begins on the inside and changes how we live and relate to others. ***Christlike character forms relational integrity.***

I. The posture of Kingdom character: (vv. 3–6)

A. Poverty — “Blessed are the poor in spirit” (v. 3)

Kingdom life begins with recognizing our spiritual bankruptcy and complete dependence upon God’s grace. (Lk 18:13; Js 4:6)

B. Penitence — “Blessed are those who mourn” (v. 4)

Kingdom people become sensitive to sin rather than excusing it. God meets genuine repentance with His grace and comfort. (2 Cor. 7:10; Ps 51:17)

C. Power under control — “Blessed are the meek” (v. 5)

Meekness is not weakness—it is strength surrendered to God. It changes how we respond to criticism, conflict, and difficult people. (Mt 11:29; Prov 15:1)

D. Pursuit — “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness” (v. 6)

The kingdom heart develops an appetite to be right with God and become more like Jesus. (Ps 42:1–2)

The progression: *I see my need → I grieve my sin → I surrender my strength → I hunger for God’s righteousness.*

II. The practice of Kingdom character: (vv. 7–9)

A. Mercy — “Blessed are the merciful” (v. 7)

Those who have experienced God’s mercy extend mercy to others. We refuse to let another person’s wrong turn our hearts into something unlike Jesus. (Eph. 4:32)

B. Purity — “Blessed are the pure in heart” (v. 8)

Purity is an undivided heart—who I appear to be and who I really am becoming the same person. (Ps. 51:10)

C. Peacemaking — “Blessed are the peacemakers” (v. 9)

Peacemakers actively move relationships toward truth, grace, forgiveness, and reconciliation. (Rom 12:18)

Personal question: *Have I done what depends on me?*

III. The price of Kingdom character: (vv. 10–12)

A. The Reason — “for righteousness’ sake”

Jesus promises blessing when opposition comes because of faithfulness to Him—not merely because we have been difficult. (2 Tim 3:12)

B. The Response — “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad”

We interpret suffering through eternity: **“For great is your reward in heaven.”** Our circumstances do not determine God’s blessing—Jesus does.

C. The Reminder — “so they persecuted the prophets”

Faithfulness has always had a cost. The kingdom brackets the Beatitudes: ***“theirs is the kingdom of heaven”*** in (Mt 5:3 and 5:10). These are not techniques for earning the kingdom; they describe people who belong to the King.

IV. The picture of Kingdom character - looks like Christ: (vv. 1–12)

A. Jesus did not merely teach the Beatitudes—He lived them. Ultimately, they give us a portrait of our King.

B. Jesus showed mercy, walked in purity, made peace, and suffered for righteousness. At the cross, the great Peacemaker reconciled sinners to God: (Col 1:20).

The Beatitudes are not a ladder we climb to reach Jesus. They are the character Jesus increasingly produces in those who belong to Him. (Gal 2:20)

WHAT KIND OF PERSON AM I BECOMING?

Christlike character forms relational integrity.

Ask yourself: **Which Beatitude is Jesus pressing most deeply into my life right now?**

How would that change the way I treat somebody this week?

*The world does not simply need to hear us **talk** about another kingdom. It needs to encounter people who **live like they belong to another King.***