

amples teaching the generations that were to follow. The blessings and the woes are equal in number (four), as if every blessing had its corresponding woe. Every privilege neglected brings its woe of remorse. There is no medium between blessing and woe. All who are not in this marvelous light are in darkness.



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*Brotherhood  
in  
Jesus Christ*

*Bible Studies*

*The Beatitudes*

*Lesson # 104*

# The Beatitudes

First part - Matthew 5:3-10

The beatitudes are not multiple choices to pick what one wants and leave the rest, but are to be taken as a whole. The beatitudes reveal what a real Christian life should be to become blessed

The beatitudes can be understood in four ways:

1. They are a code of ethics for the disciples and a standard code for all believers
2. They contrast kingdom values compared to worldly, revealing what is of eternal value compared to the temporary.
3. They contrast superficial faith, like that of the Pharisees with that of what Jesus Christ expects from us, which is real faith, coming from the heart.
4. They tell us how the Old Testament expectations will be fulfilled in God's new kingdom here on earth.

Jesus words seem to contradict each other, but we have to remember that God's way of living and thinking contradicts the way of the world. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, said the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Is: 55:8-9). If we want to live according to God's will, we must for example be ready to speak and act according to His word which seems strange to the world. We have to be willing to give when others take and love when others hate and support when others abuse. We as true Christians must set our own interests aside in order to serve others.

selves a good foundation against the time to come, that we may lay hold on eternal life" (1 Tm: 6:18-19). Where-with we may become perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2Tm: 3:17). "In all things showing ourselves to be a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity and sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary to these traits may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you" (Ti: 2:7-8).

For God is not unrighteous to forget our work and labour of love, which you have shown toward His name, in that we have ministered to the saints and still do minister and desire that every one of you shows the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That we become not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises" (Heb: 6:10-12). Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord (1 Cor: 15:58). "Let us consider and provoke one another unto love and good works (Heb: 10:24). And therewith perfect ourselves in every good work to do His will, which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever" (Heb: 13:21). "For the wrath of man works not the righteousness of God (Jms: 1:20). For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work" (Jms: 3:16).

These words of our Lord, though in substance the same as those spoken by Him on the mount, were not delivered on the mount, but "on the plain" (Lk: 6:17). They were spoken with "His eyes directed on His disciples" (Lk: 6:20), as 'the teaching' was specially meant for them first of all and through them through their lives ex-

struction lies ahead for all those who will not abide by God's word. For this know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away (2 Tim: 3:1-5).

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak and remain patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but always follow that which is good, both among yourselves and to all men (1 Thes: 5:13-15).

“Therefore we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness, and the work of faith with power: that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in us, and we in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thes: 1:11-12). Let us “Comfort our hearts and establish ourselves in every good word and deed (2 Thes: 2:17). “For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ that with quietness they work and eat their own bread. But brethren, let's not become weary in well doing” (2 Thes: 3:10-13), but rich in good works, ready to distribute and willing to communicate; Laying for our-

Blessed refers to faith, hope and joy that is only found through obedience to God's word. It is a joy that enters our hearts that is completely independent of any outside interference. It has nothing to do with laughter, earthly pleasures or processions. The blessed follow Jesus words in faith and hope and gain true joy, happiness and peace of mind. For God's kingdom is organized in a much different manner than those kingdoms we find in the world today. The world accepts selfishness, wealth, power and authority as her standards, but God's kingdom is based on faith, trust, honesty, reliability, humility, love and compassion. This is what God prefers to see in our lives. It implies the fortunate and enviable state of those that will be allowed to enter the kingdom of heaven. Jesus even invites His followers to come unto Him to find rest and peace (Mat. 11:28).

**1.) Mat: 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit:** for theirs is the kingdom of God.” “For thus says the high and lofty One that inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and revive the heart of the contrite ones” (Is: 57:15). “Better it is to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud (Prv: 16:19).

What is the nature of this blessedness?

- a. It resembles a broken heart (Ps: 51:7), a feeling of unworthiness.
- b. It speaks of the “poverty of the Spirit” which is not something that can be put on or outwardly seen but concerns the most inner character of mind and spirit within a person.
- c. It resembles self-distrust (Rom: 7:18). No confidence while living in the flesh (Phil: 3:3)

- d. It is a complete dependence on faith (Jn: 15:15)  
They are rich in faith (Jms: 2:5)
- e. It is a clashing of worldly values, of personal inadequacy, yet God's reward is the kingdom of heaven.
- f. They are chosen by God and definitely cared for (1 Cor: 28-29; Is: 57:15 and 66:2).

How do we develop this attitude?

We must submit ourselves to God and draw nigh to Him and He will draw nigh to us. When we resist the devil, he will flee from us. Therefore let us purify our hearts and humble ourselves before God and He will lift us up (Jms: 4:7-10).

2.) **Mat. 5:4 "Blessed are they that mourn:** for they shall be comforted." A person cannot mourn unless he recognizes how insufficient he is to handle life in his own strength.

Comforted with what?

- a. It is appointed unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified (Is: 61:3).
- b. They are comforted by sorrow of the crucifixion of Christ that is turned into the joy of a resurrection unto salvation (Jn: 16:20; 2 Cor: 1:4-7 and Rev: 21:4)
- c. God comforts us all in our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God (2 Cor: 1:4).

give you only comfort, but fade away at the expense of eternal life.

- b. **Woe unto you that are full!** For ye shall hunger. This addresses people that never had any experience of unfortunate hardship. They are self reliant having the spirit of the world and do not believe in God as their creator and sustainer of all life. They seldom share their abundance with others in need, for they lack love and compassion, because they do not understand the suffering hunger they themselves may have to suffer some day.
- c. **Woe unto you that laugh now!** For ye shall mourn and weep. They live according to the spirit of the world. They are self-reliant, prideful and have no need for God to guide and direct their path unto the everlasting things that are freely given to us. Which things also we speak, not in the words man's wisdom, but which the Holy Ghost teaches; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned (1 Cor: 2:12-14).
- d. **Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you!** For so did their fathers to the false prophets. Kings and people praised them for their predictions and prophecy, because they spoke exactly what the people wanted to hear (Lk: 6:24-26). They turn away their ears from the truth, and turn unto fables (2 Tim: 4:4). But popularity is no guaranty for truth and flattery does not bring God's approval. Therefore de-

with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that is in need. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers (Eph: 4:28-29). Being confident of this very thing, that he which has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ (Phil: 1:6). For it is God which works in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure. Therefore do all things without murmuring and disputing: That we may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom we shine as lights in the world (Phil: 2:13-15). "That we might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; and be strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness" (Col: 1:10). Therefore we "study, remain quiet, do our own business and work with our own hands, as we commanded you; that you may walk honestly toward them that are without, and have lack of nothing" (1 Thes: 4:11-12). "Esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves. For we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose (Rom: 8:28).

**But with the blessings we also read of the warnings in the four woes that follow (Lk: 6:24-26)**

- a. **But woe unto you that are rich!** For ye have received your consolation. Here we are informed that all those people that rely on their riches will receive them as their only reward for their labour. Therefore do not be fooled for riches will

- d. Jesus sent us "the Comforter that he may abide with us for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not, neither knows him: but ye know him; for he dwells with you, and shall be in you" (Jn: 14:16-17).
- e. He sends us the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in His name. He shall teach us all things, and bring all things to our remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you (Jn. 14:26).

**3.) Mt: 5:5 "Blessed are the meek:** for they shall inherit the earth." You can not be meek unless you experienced the need of gentleness and compassion some time in your life yourself. Knowing that need within us reveals humility. We can come to Jesus and follow His invitation when He said: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light (Mat: 11:28-30). And you "shall delight yourself in the abundance of peace" (Ps: 37:11).

**4.) Mt: 5:6 "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst** after righteousness: for they shall be filled." A person can not hunger and thirst for righteousness if he already is proud and thinking of himself as righteous, because to be longing and hunger for spiritual righteousness requires humility. Luke refers to a parable wherein he speaks of a publican that prayed: "God be merciful to me a sinner! I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalts self (like some of the Pharisees) shall be abased; but he that humbles himself shall be exalted" (Lk: 18:13-

14)! They will be filled with the word of God and the Holy Spirit. For “Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that comes to Me shall never hunger; and he that believes on Me shall never thirst.” - “I am that bread of life” (Jn: 6:35, 48). - He invites “every one that thirsts, to come to the waters, and he that has no money; to come, buy and eat; buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend money for that which is not bread and waste your labour for that which satisfies not? Hearken diligently unto Me and eat that which is good and let your soul delight itself in fatness” (Is: 55:1-2). We are to “seek the Lord while He may be found and call upon Him while He is near” (Is: 55:6). It is reflected in the act of pursuing personal needs that God satisfies a person with a humble and contrite spirit. So that we are found in Him, not having our own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is the righteousness of God by faith in Christ: That we may know Him and His resurrection power, and the sharing of His suffering unto death; so that by any means we likewise might attain access unto the resurrection of the dead (Phil: 3:9-11).

**5.) Mt: 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart:** for they shall see God.” “He that walks uprightly works righteousness and speaks the truth in his heart. He that backbites not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor takes up a reproach against his neighbour” (Ps: 15:2-3). For the Lord loves righteousness; and beholds the upright (Ps: 11:7). A good man out of his heart brings forth that which is good; and an evil man brings forth that which is evil: for out of his mouth the abundance of the heart speaks (Lk: 6:45). A person can not be pure if

gentleness himself. If you want to live for God you must be ready to live and act what seems strange to the world. You must be able to give when others want to take, you must be able to love while others begin to hate and abuse you. This means you will have to give up your own rights in order to serve others and you will receive what God has in store for you. There will be times when following Jesus will bring you great popularity, but there also will be hunger, morning as well as exposure to persecution.

“For when the Gentiles that by nature do the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness while their thoughts the mean while accuse or else excuse one another. For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified” (Rom: 2:14-15 & 13). Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abides which he has built upon, he shall receive a reward (1 Cor: 3:13-14).

Jn: 5:36 But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father has given me to finish, the same bear witness of me, that the Father has sent me.

Acts 10:35 But in every nation he that fears Him and works righteousness, is accepted with Him.

When we labour, work with our own hands: and are reviled, we bless; and when persecuted, we suffer for it (1 Cor: 4:12). For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them (Eph: 2:10). Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working

of frivolity and fashion. Such sorrow is not the result of disappointment through the blasting of selfish hopes or the upsetting of one's own personal interests. It is the sorrow of Christ begotten in the heart through sympathy and love. "Unto them that mourn in Zion He will appoint beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified" (Isa: 61:3). Just like "the sorrow of crucifixion shall be turned into the joy of resurrection (Jn: 16:20), as the suffering of Christ abounds in us, so does also our consolation abound in Christ. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away (Rev: 21:4).

**4. Persecution.** "Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, when they shall separate you from their company, reproach you and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice, for your reward is great in heaven: for in like manner did their fathers unto the prophets" (Lk: 6:22). Persecution is part of the promised heritage of the Christian (Mk: 10:29-30). It strengthens our faith and lifts the sufferer into closer fellowship with the Saviour that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves and be protected from the evil (Jn: 17:13-15). The early disciples rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His Name (Acts 5: 41).

Mt: 5:4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Mt: 5:5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

A person can not be meek unless he was once in need of

his heart is filled with pride. God requires humbleness and He will lift you up (Jms: 4:10).

**6.) Mt: 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers:** for they shall be called the children of God."

You can not be a peace maker when you think of yourself to always be right. To admit your own fallibility requires a humble spirit and peace results only when partners come together and agree with one another in their decision making. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments. For there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore" (Ps: 133:1-3).

Personal peace is pursued without any concern of the world's chaos. By abiding in peace and holiness with all men without which no man shall see the Lord." By looking diligently that not any root of bitterness is springing up that may trouble us and we become defiled and loose out of the grace of God (Heb: 12:14-15). "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Rom: 8:14). - We are God's children now. What we shall be in the world to come does not yet appear: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that has this hope in him purifies himself, even as He is pure (1Jn: 3:2-3). - We must show love without dissimulation, abhor evil and cleave to that which is good. We are kind to one another, rejoice in hope, are patient in tribulation and continue in prayer. We share in the necessity of the saints; are hospitable, bless, and curse not. We rejoice with them that do rejoice, weep with them that weep, are of the same mind one

toward another, not high minded or wise in our own conceits. We do not recompense evil for evil, but overcome evil with good, live peaceable and provide things honest in the sight of all men (Rom: 12:9-20).

**7.) Mt: 5:10-12** “**Blessed are they which are persecuted** for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Blessedness demands a certain death to oneself and renunciation of your own rights. Standing up against persecution demands a Christ like humility and steadfastness. Blessed are you, when men shall revile and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

“Be neither afraid nor troubled! “But and if ye suffer for righteousness sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ” (1 Pt: 3:14-16).

**Why should we rejoice in prosecution?**

- a. It will help us to take our eyes off from worldly rewards.
- b. It strips away superficial belief.
- c. It strengthens the way of those that endure to the end.
- d. Our light shines and illuminates the darkness in the world around us.
- e. With our attitudes and actions we strengthen others.

tablish His coming kingdom her on earth.

**Here are four conditions of blessedness.**

Luke 6:20-26

**1. Poor** must be understood in regards to poverty *in spirit*. A man may be as poor as Lazarus and yet be proud, but when a man is really aware of his personal destitution before God, he has entered into a blessed state; "To this man, says the Lord, will I look, that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at my Word" (Isa: 66: 2). The poor in spirit walk upright, work righteous and speak the truth from their heart. They do no evil to their neighbour, nor take a reproach against anyone (Ps: 15:2-3). The humble in spirit shall be lifted up (Jms: 4:10 & 1 Pt: 5:6). The poor in spirit has God chosen to be *rich in faith* and to become heirs of the kingdom which he has promised them that love him (Jms: 2:5). For only when we recognize our insufficiency to take care of things in this life on our own strength we reveal humility and reliance on God's Spirit for help.

**2. Hunger.** "Blessed are ye that hunger now, for ye shall be filled" (Lk: 6:21). He fills the hungry with good things; but the rich he sends away empty (Lk: 1:53). This is a spiritual hunger that cannot be appeased with earthly things or time. Only this type of longing can fill the hungry soul with goodness (Ps: 107:9). No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draws him: and I will raise him up at the last day (Jn: 6:44). Spiritual hunger is the cry of a real need. It is the silent invisible language of a soul in distress; a feeling never felt by those who are dead in sinful trespasses.

**3. Sorrow.** "Blessed are ye that weep now, for ye shall laugh" (Lk: 6:21). The blessedness of being able to weep in the presence of Christ is utterly unknown to the world



The beatitudes must be taken as a whole for they describe what God expects to see in us as His followers. Every beatitude reveals to us in what way we will be blessed. Blessed means more than happiness it describes the fortunate enviable state of those who will be blessed to enter and become part of God's kingdom. "Blessed" to Jesus means the experience of hope and joy that is independent of any outward experiences. They do not promise laughter, pleasure or earthly prosperity, but a deep form of inner joy and peace if we follow Jesus no matter what the cost. The godly kingdom is organized differently in contrast to the worldly kingdom, for in the heavenly kingdom wealth, power and authority are unimportant. People in God's kingdom have different virtues, seek different attitudes like justice, truth, peace and love. Love and care are not the worldly carbon copies of selfishness, pride and lust for power, but do reflect the humility and self sacrifice of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Jesus said to rejoice when we are persecuted, because:

1. It can be good for us to take our eyes off of earthly things and concentrate on God's protection
2. It strips away superficial faith and belief
3. It will strengthen the faith of those that believe and endure to then end
4. Our attitude serves as an example for others to follow
5. It may comfort us to know that many of God's greatest prophets were also prosecuted.

Like for an example Daniel, Jeremiah, Elijah.

The fact that we are persecuted proves that we are faithful and follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Those that are unfaithful are not even noticed. But God will make provisions for all the faithful to be received at His return to es-

- f. For we do not let sin suppress our light, but explain it to others
- g. For we are not quiet, but speak up and defend the truth
- h. Because we do not compromise just to get along,
- i. But take care of the needs of others

Isaiah 52:13 tells us that God's servants will be highly, exalted and extolled and that their reward is to inherit the kingdom of God. Yet "all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Tm: 3:12).

With these beatitudes Jesus describes the attitude He wants to see in His followers. Those that actually live out those attitudes are blessed, for He has something special for them. Our goal as Christians is the desire to live like Christ by following His example. If we live according to these attitudes we naturally will stir up opposition. For these examples are in direct opposition to those of the world.

"Which of the prophets have your fathers persecuted? They have slain them which prophesied of the coming of the Just One; of whom you now have been the betrayers and murderers: Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it" (Acts: 7:52-53).

Therefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: (Mt: 23:34)

"For you, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judea are in Christ Jesus: for you also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews: Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets and have persecuted us; and they pleased not God, and are contrary to all

men” (1 Thes: 2:14-15).

## The Beatitudes

Part 2 - Matthew chapter 5:3-12 with Luke 6:20-21

Jesus is describing the traits he is looking for in His followers as ambassadors for Christ. He calls out all those that are living out those traits blessed, because He has something special for them planned. He also points out that all those that seriously develop these attitudes will attract and face opposition, because every one with such behaviour is almost a direct contradiction to our modern society. If living according to the beatitudes is our goal for every day of our life to become like Him, we will face opposing challenges sooner or later. But Jesus wants us to let our light so shine before men, that they may see our good works and glorify our Father which is in heaven (Mt: 5:16). For you can not hide a city on top of a hill! Its light at night can be seen for miles. If we live for Christ we will glow like lights, showing others what it is like to live in a Christ like manner. As Christ’s ambassadors we are instructed to propagate and teach his word to others using our by God given spiritual gifts. We use our God given spiritual gifts to teach God’s word to others. If we do not share God’s word with others and hide our light we do not fulfill Christ’s commission and become unprofitable servants by:

Being quiet when we should speak  
Going along with the crowd  
Denying the light and  
Not explaining the light to others  
They quench the Spirit. (1 Thes: 5:19).  
And let sin dim their light

For the Son of man will come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then reward every man according to his works (Mt: 16:27). The authority was given Jesus to

judge the entire world. For it is written, that every knee shall bow to me and every tongue shall confess to God. Every one of us shall give account of himself to God. His judgment is already working in our lives where everyone’s life is reviewed and evaluated at that time (Rom: 14:9-13 & Phil: 2:9-11). For the Father judges no man, but has committed all judgment unto the Son (Jn: 5:22). The eternal destiny is secured for Jesus will look at how we handled our gift responsibilities and opportunities in order to determine our heavenly reward. At that time God will deliver the righteous and condemn the wicked. Yet there remains a future final white throne judgment when Christ returns. When the sea and hell delivers up the dead that are in it; and every man is judged according to his works. Then death and hell are cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death (Rev: 20:11-14). Therefore judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again (Mt: 7:1-2). Judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and of the hearts 1Cor: 4:5). Never judge others salvation, because it is God’s work to give and not ours. This directive is not only confined to unbelievers but also to Christians alike.

There are at least 4 ways to understand the beatitudes:

1. They are a code of ethics
2. They contrast spiritual kingdom values against worldly values
3. They contrast the superficial faith of the Pharisees with the real heart filled faith that Christ wants to see in us.
4. They show us how the Old Testament expectations will be fulfilled in the New Testament

These beatitudes leave no place for us to pick and choose.