# **The Beatitudes- Part 1**

Pastor Carl Van Vliet

Sermon on the Mount / The Beatitudes / Matthew 5:3–16; Mt 5:3–12

# [Matthew 5:3-16](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.3-16)

Before you can look at the individual beatitudes you need to be able to see them as a whole.

BEATITUDES - Verses 3-12

• 1. Who is BLESSED

• 2. The CHARACTER of the one who is blessed

• 3. The PROMISE of the one who is blessed

**How many Beatitudes are there? Is it 8, is it 9, is it 7?**

The question comes with the 10th verse [Matthew 5:10](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.10) “10 Blessed are those **who are persecuted** for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Those who think there are only 7 want to exclude this verse in the beatitudes because the others all describe blessedness based on a characteristic’s in the believers life and persecution is not a characteristic.

Others would count 9 because verse 11 also begins with the word “Blessed” [Matthew 5:11](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.11) “11 “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.”

I believe there are 8 in Matthew with an emphasis added to the 8ᵗʰ one.

Why? Because similar emphases is used in [Matthew 6](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt6) in the Lords Prayer on forgiveness

[Matthew 6: 12-15](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt6.12-15) *“12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. 14 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*  vs 12 in the teaching on how to pray he tells the disciples to pray for forgiveness as they also offer forgiveness and vs 14-15 right after the closing of the prayer Jesus revisits vs 12 with additional emphasis on forgiveness.

These two things get double emphasis PERSECUTION & FORGIVENESS we will unpack those further when we get there in the texts. Just remember this significance and double emphasis for later because it really does matter.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In these Beatitudes there are **two** that have present tense promises and **six** that have future tense

The opening and the closing beatitudes both end with “Theirs is the kingdom of heaven” Verse 3 and verse 10.

The middle six all have a future tense “They shall”. It is not future tense as in some distant far off time in the future when those promises come to fruition in the believers life but rather they are received in ever increasing measure as the characteristic increases in the believers life.

Moses and Jesus. [Exodus 19:3](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ex19.3) “3 And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel:” [Matthew 5:1](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.1) “1 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.”

10 Commandments - 8 Beatitudes

1st 4 Commandments Vertical - 1ˢᵗ 4 Beatitudes also Vertical.

The remainder of the commandments are horizontal-The Last 4 Beatitudes are also horizontal.

The 1st and the Last Beatitude end with the same promise-" the Kingdom of Heaven"

The 1ˢᵗ 4 Beatitudes end with the descriptive characteristic hungering and thirsting For righteousness. The last ends with persecution for righteousness sake.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Greek word for “Blessed” is μακάριος (makarios) in a very generic sense means blessed, happy, fortunate.

This term, μακάριος (makarios) though was not nearly as difficult to understand for Jesus’ audience and Matthew’s readers as it is for us.

Our modern idea of “happiness” is “Subjective” it is derived from a dependence on circumstances.

*According to Aristotle happiness is the ONLY thing we want for it’s own sake*. Everything else we do is in order to be happy - in one way or another.

Psychologists state that **happiness is an emotional state characterized by feelings, satisfaction, contentment, and fulfillment**. They have studied human happiness and determined ***the hypothesis*** that there are 4 levels of happiness in the human experience:

**Happiness level 1: Laetus. Happiness from material objects**

Happiness at the first level is simply about sensual gratification based on things / something external. This kind of happiness can be intense but is short-lived.

Psychologists state as long as you don’t forget the other levels there is absolutely nothing wrong with enjoying the pleasures of level 1 that life can provide!

This level of happiness is hedonistic. Hedonism (from Gr. ἡδονή, (*hēdonē*), ‘pleasure’) denotes the theory that pleasure is or should be the sole end and aim of human action or conduct

**Happiness level 2: Felix. Ego gratification. Happiness from comparison: being better, more admired than others etc.**

You feel this type of happiness when you for example win in sports or get a promotion.

Everyone likes admiration and winning to some extent but people varies a lot regarding how strong their competitive nature is. For some it’s everything, for others it’s just a very minor and very short lived pleasure.

**Happiness level 3: Beatitudo. The happiness from doing good for others and making the world a better place.**

By the way this level is actually taken from the Latin word Beatitudo, which is the Latin word we get Beatitudes from and the psychologists have actually taken this a social justice application of the Sermon on the Mount, the blessed life of serving others. The problem with this social justice application is it seeks to breaks the Christian ethos rooted in a relationship with Christ - Right Action, Right Motive and Right Goal. This level of happiness based on the human experience centers around the euphoric self fulfilled emotion known as happiness. [Matthew 5:16](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.16) “16 Let your light so shine before men, t**hat they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven**.”

Level 3 happiness is more lasting and, for most people, provides a deeper feeling of meaning than level 1 and 2.

The limits of level 3 happiness can be said to be human imperfections. Nobody is perfect and human relationships involve disappointment, jealousy, and the risk to be hurt.

**Happiness level 4: Sublime Beatitudo. Ultimate, perfect happiness**

Level 4 happiness is the most difficult to describe. It involves a search for fullness and perfection. *It has to do with finding the right balance between the other levels*

***In other words in the psychologist minds the perfect state of happiness, the most sublime state of happiness is living on a teter-totter where one side is material happiness and the other side is egocentrical happiness and the fulcrum is a little bit of social justice***

*That’s is the best they think it gets for human happiness.*

*But that’s not* μακάριος (makarios), that’s not the blessed life God promises at all.

Instead, God’s happiness is joy that comes from a **heart that is alive towards God through Christ**. Joy is not found is circumstances. It is not subjective. Joy and happiness are not synonymous - Joy comes from a vibrant heart fully alive unto God regardless of the externals of life.

Blessed are! This is not subjective, it is objective just like there is no such thing as subjective truth only objective truth. The life Blessed life in Christ is objective - You ARE Blessed. The characteristics are grown in Spiritual maturity and the recognized blessedness to grows too as we see more of God at work in our lives.

[2 Peter 1:2-4](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.2Pe1.2-4) “2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as **His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 **by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises**, **that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”**

**Matthew 5:3–16**

A crossword puzzle with words

Description automatically generated with low confidence