

THE BEATITUDES

Matthew 5:3-12

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Enriched and complete are those who live with a sense of dependence, vulnerability, and gratitude, for the Reign of God is the same as this—no more, no less.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Happy are those who long to fill what is lacking in the lives around them—who are weak and broken from the intensity of this desire—they will hear God's voice and be strengthened and encouraged, and they will see the face of that for which they long.

Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

Fortunate are those who are not arrogant or domineering; they will partake in and have their place to stand and live richly.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Healed are those who crave and passionately desire a good place with God; they will find it and know that they have found it.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Thriving are those moved to help someone in need, turning feeling into action—for in so doing, they will experience the comfort they give.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God

Congratulations to those whose innermost passions and desires are free from anything that is false, that diverts from true purpose; they shall see God and God's Unity everywhere they look.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Whole and balanced are those who exert themselves planting health, safety, and understanding every season, year in and year out, they will discover who they really are and their place in God's family.

Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Ripe are those pursuing salvation, redemption, rightness, and purity, for the Reign of God, the realization of unity, is present in their lives.

(The Hebrew/Aramaic root "radap" can mean either to pursue or to persecute; the word "khenuta" can mean righteousness, justice, salvation, or redemption. The context favors a pursuit of purity and redemption rather than persecution for the sake of righteousness.)

Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Health to you when your strength is sucked out, when you're pulled apart at the seams and wrongly labeled immature for my sake, drench yourself in celebration—live to the extremes, including letting yourself and your ego disappear—for this is the key to claiming your new home in God. It is the sign of prophets and prophetesses to see and feel the disunity around them intensely—to be persecuted by circumstances.

Paraphrased for Aramaic/Hebrew context and understanding.
Paraphrases have been compiled from Aramaic/Hebrew/Greek word studies and paraphrases by Neil Douglas-Klotz, Eugene Peterson, David Bivin, and Dave Brisbin to get the essence of Aramaic/Hebrew understanding of Jesus' sayings. Initial translations in bold are from the NASB.
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