

Handout #1, Lesson 5:

SUMMARY OF THE BEATITUDES CONTINUED

| | |
|---|---|
| BLESSING #4 [the turning point] <i>BLESSED ARE THEY WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS</i> | Christ gives himself to the soul that truly hungers for Him. When the world no longer has any hold on us, all we want is Him. |
| PROMISE #4 <i>FOR THEY WILL BE SATISFIED</i> | Filled with the Holy Spirit and nourished by Christ who gives all of Himself to us in the Eucharist: Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity! |
| BLESSING # 5 <i>BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL</i> | As we yield our will to God and are filled with the divine life of His Son, we grow closer to Him, we become more like Him. We forgive others and we offer His love to others because He first loved and forgave us. |
| PROMISE #5 <i>FOR THEY WILL BE SHOWN MERCY</i> | The more we forgive others the more we receive forgiveness through the sacrifice of the Son. |
| BEATITUDE #6 <i>BLESSED ARE THE CLEAN OF HEART</i> | With Christ living in us, His righteousness cleanses us and our hearts become pure; we reflect the image of Christ. |
| PROMISE #6 <i>FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD</i> | We will see the face of God in each person with whom we share Christ's love. |
| BEATITUDE # 7 <i>BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS</i> | As we live our lives with the Prince of Peace within us it becomes natural for us to share His message of peace and salvation with others. |
| PROMISE #7 <i>FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD</i> | John 1:12 "But to all who receive him, who believe in His name, He gave the power to become children of God." |
| The result of living the Beatitudes | |
| <i>BLESSED ARE THEY WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR THE SAKE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS</i> | When we live God's plan for our lives we may endure injustice and we may be persecuted for His sake and for the plan of God working in the lives of others. We answer His call to take up our cross daily and to follow Him. |
| PROMISE: <i>FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN</i> [this is a repeat of promise #1] | God saw that his children were trapped in a world of sin. He freed us through His Son's sacrificial death on the cross so we could be reborn through Christian baptism as sons and daughter of God and become the heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven = eternal life lived within the life of the Most Holy Trinity. |
| <i>BLESSED ARE YOU WHEN THEY INSULT YOU AND PERSECUTE YOU AND UTTER EVERY KIND OF EVIL AGAINST YOU [FALSELY] BECAUSE OF ME</i> | Our commitment to accepting persecution in the name of Jesus has to be a personal commitment. |
| PROMISE: <i>REJOICE AND BE GLAD FOR YOUR REWARD WILL BE GREAT IN HEAVEN. THUS THEY PERSECUTED THE PROPHETS WHO WERE BEFORE YOU</i> | When we accept our commitment to everything He has taught us we can rejoice in the confidence of His promise of salvation if we persevere in faith to the end. |
| M. Hunt, copyright 1995 www.AgapeBibleStudy.com | |

Handout #3, Lesson 5:

PROGRESSION OF THE BEATITUDES continued

“BLESSED ARE.....”

Beatitudes contain 7 or 8 (depending on how you count them) successive fundamental spiritual states that every Christian must strive to achieve. The Beatitudes must be lived fully and completely just as the 10 Commandments have to be lived in their entirety, just as all 7 of the gifts of the Holy Spirit must be claimed to be opened in our souls (Is 11:1-2; CCC # 1831), and just as all 12 “fruits” of the Holy Spirit must ripen within us in order for us to bear the “good fruit” of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23; CCC# 1832). But the Beatitudes represent both a present and a future fulfillment. Just as Jesus was a present reality in His Resurrection as the “first fruit” of the Resurrection that is promised to all of us (1 Cor 15:20-23; Col 1:15) as a future reality, so Jesus wants us to be strengthened and encouraged by the “firstfruits” of these spiritual gifts, but the great harvest He will reap is yet to come when Christ returns to gather His elect [1 Thessalonians 4:16]. The 1st beatitude we must achieve on this spiritual journey to heaven, *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*, both sets the spiritual tone of His homily and suggests the present reality. In this call to a transformed life Jesus asks us in this earthly exile to live the spiritual reality of the beatitudes daily, to walk in His footsteps spreading His love and giving His mercy, but we must also keep our eyes on heaven for that is our future and eternal reality!

SUMMATION OF LIVING THE BEATITUDES:

Blessed are they [blessed are you] who are persecuted—we take up our crosses and follow Jesus; committing ourselves to everything He has taught us, even enduring persecution for His sake → but joyfully because we know He has promised us eternal life in our Father’s Kingdom.

7. Peacemakers—with Christ living in us we become conformed to His image of peace and love → in the image of Christ we become divine children of His Father

6. Clean of heart—our old hearts are replaced with the pure heart of Jesus our Redeemer → we will see God’s face in the faces of everyone with whom we share His love.

Handout 3: Lesson #5

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

...the children of God are peacemakers, because nothing resists God, and surely children ought to have the likeness of their father. The Sermon on the Mount, St. Augustine, Book I chapter 2.9

The peace shown by peacemakers brings a harvest of justice. James 3:18

Peace in the context of these 3 passages is a gift of God.

- Phil 4:7: *Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.* = peace of God
- Colossians 3:15: *And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful.* = peace of Christ,
- Romans 15:33: *The God of peace be with all of you.* = God of peace

But in John's Gospel when Jesus speaks of "peace" He also defines the concept of peace by linking "peace" to His mission.

- John 14:27: *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.* = the promise of peace defined as the gift of salvation.
- John 16:32-33: *Behold, the hour is coming and has arrived when each of you will be scattered to his own home and you will leave me alone. But I am not alone, because the Father is with me. I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have troubles, but take courage, I have conquered the world.* = the peace that comes from faith in Christ.
- John 20:19-29: *On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' [...]. Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, 'Peace be with you.' [...]. Blessed are those who have not seen and believed.* This is the typical greeting again, but it takes on a message of rejoicing in the miracle of the Resurrection of the Messiah and the promise of salvation as it is given through the breath of Christ from which the Apostles receive the Holy Spirit [verse 22].

www.AgapeBibleStudy.com

The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

