

Matthew 5:10

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (NIV)

BLESSED: Makarios (3107) — “A state of existence in relationship to God in which a person is ‘blessed’ from God’s perspective even when he or she doesn’t feel happy or isn’t presently experiencing good fortune.”

Are: “The individual characteristics of the Beatitudes are not self-produced, nor can we simply learn or emulate them in an attempt to bring them about in our lives. They are products of a life energized by the Spirit of God. They are, like the listing Paul gives in Galatians 5:22–23, the fruit of the Spirit. They are a wholistic view of what the Spirit will produce in the life of a disciple of Jesus who is walking in his ways and is being transformed into his image.” (Wilkins)

Each beatitude contains an explicit (expressed) call to TRUE, internal righteousness while at the same time there is an implicit (implied) condemnation of religious hypocrisy.

Jesus’ values	Countervalues
<i>poor in spirit</i>	self-confident, competent, self-reliant
<i>mourn</i>	pleasure-seeking, hedonistic
<i>meek</i>	proud, powerful, important
<i>hunger and thirst for righteousness</i>	satisfied, “well adjusted,” practical
<i>merciful</i>	self-righteous, “able to take care of themselves”
<i>pure in heart</i>	“adult,” sophisticated, broad-minded, double-minded
<i>peacemakers</i>	competitive, aggressive
<i>persecuted because of righteousness</i>	adaptable, popular, “don’t rock the boat”

Adapted from Wilkins, M. J. (2004). *Matthew* (p. 220).
