

BEATITUDE BLESSINGS

and 8 contrasting woes

CHARACTER ATTITUDE

BLESSING

Poor in spirit

[absolute spiritual poverty, helpless]

Theirs is the kingdom of heaven

[total favor now with the King and all His resources]

- Woe and misery to the proud and self-sufficient for they will receive nothing of value on earth and an eternity of emptiness and loneliness in the kingdom of darkness

Mourners

[intense godly sorrow over sin]

[will be comforted and treated as an honored guest as one invited to a banquet] eg. The prodigal son/ Luke 15

- Woe to those blind, self-satisfied people who are apathetic over their own sin and that of others. Their present comfort will soon end in permanent torment

Meek [fully yielded to God's will]

[will inherit and take possession of the earth]

- How obnoxious and unhappy are the proud and pushy persons who seek to control everyone else and can't even control their own life. They always demand their own way but always end up angry at others. These stubborn folks will end up at the bottom of the heap in utter misery.

Hunger/Thirst for Righteousness

[they will be filled and fulfilled to complete satisfaction] [seek to walk uprightly with God]

- O how miserable are those who crave the world's delights, for they shall never be satisfied. They will thirst forever in the lake of fire.

Merciful [God's compassion to others]

[they will receive God's mercy and compassion]

- Woe to the unmerciful, for they will receive no mercy at God's judgement seat.

Pure in Heart [single focus]

[they will see God in all situations]

- What misery and confusion to those who are double-minded, evil hearted and who have mixed motives in their hearts. They will see God only as an enemy or villain instead of as their best hope and friend.

Peacemakers [bridge builders]

[will be called mature sons of God]

- Woe to those who cause strife and trouble, for they get a reputation as being like Satan, the original rebel and causer of strife.

Persecuted [for Jesus and righteousness]

[kingdom of heaven now and great heavenly reward]

- Woe to people pleasers who have no backbone to stand up for what is right. The world may speak well of them for awhile, but God certainly does not. The cowardly will end up in disgrace and the place of shame. (Message continues on page below)

If you have gone through our Introduction of the Kingdom section on our website. You will find many helpful definitions of the kingdom of God / heaven. The first Beatitude promises that the poor in spirit inherit the kingdom of God now! Since I wrote my first course on this subject in the early 1990's, I have learned so much more about the kingdom. In the past few years I have gleaned so much from a book by E. Stanley Jones called, The Unshakable Kingdom and the Unchanging Person. In our Kingdom Wisdom section I highlight the life and wisdom of E.S. Jones. Here is one of my favorite quotes from the book which summarizes the kingdom message.

'Jesus did not define the Kingdom in precise terms, perhaps because he was the definiton. We may define the Kingdom since He has shown us what it is - shown us in His own person, as: The Kingdom of God is God's total order, expressed as realm and reign, in the individual and in society; and which is to replace the present unworkable world order with God's order in the individual and In society; and while the nature of the Kingdom is social, the entrance into it is by a personal new birth now; the character of that Kingdom is seen in the character of Jesus.

The Kingdom is Christlikeness universalized; while it comes on earth in the time process, it is eternal and is the same rule which is in heaven and because it is Christlikeness this makes it heaven - there and here; and while it is a total order demanding total obedience, it brings total freedom. The Kingdom will be consummated when Jesus returns; He came once and He will come again; but of that consummation I have no timetable. Jesus said nobody knows but the Father.
E. Stanley Jones

Throughout history, there has been a clash of kingdoms between God's perfect order and way of living in contrast to man's rule which leads to chaos and disorder. While growing up I remember the quote displayed in the living room of our farmhouse.

God's Way is the Best Way

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