

UNIT 7

THE BEATITUDES

Hymn Part 4

CHRIST'S HUMANITY

*[Jesus] "was made in the likeness of men;
and ... found in fashion as a man."*

PHILIPPIANS 2:7-8



DAY 1

Two Halves of a Whole, Part 1

DAY 2

Two Halves of a Whole, Part 2

DAY 3

Poor in Spirit, Mourn, Meek

DAY 4

Hungry, Merciful, Pure in Heart

DAY 5

Peacemakers, Persecuted for Righteousness

Why You Will Find This Unit Helpful

You will understand that God uses circumstances, even difficult or hurtful ones, to develop in you qualities that He in turn blesses. God will work in you to develop the qualities described in the Beatitudes. God will also work through you to manifest Himself to others as you give of yourself.

Lifelong Goal

In Christ you will become a reflection of Christ's perfect humanity as you develop and manifest the qualities described in the Beatitudes.

Summary of God's Work in You

Christ's humanity in you facilitates the mental quality of authority. God's goal for you is royal princeliness. Your growth in humanity can be measured only by Christ's nobility of spirit. Christ enables your perfect humanity in His role as Brother. Christ transforms you.

Unit Learning Goals

- You will know some of the differences between the first four and the second four Beatitudes.
- You will understand ways God uses circumstances to develop the Beatitudes in your life.
- You will understand what the Beatitudes are and are not.
- You will understand eight ways you can worship God because of what He does in and through you.
- You will demonstrate an openness to God's work of developing the Beatitudes in your life.

What You Will Do to Begin Developing the Beatitudes

- You will contrast the first four Beatitudes with the second four to understand what they mean and how God uses them.
- You will begin to use the Lifelong Helps and The Mind of Christ Cards to guide the process of developing the Beatitudes in your life.
- You will examine your life to identify past and present circumstances that God uses to mold you into the image of His Son.
- You will surrender self to allow God to work in and through you to reflect the qualities of Christ's humanity.

Scripture Memory Verse

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:3).

Lifelong Helps Related to This Unit

Beatitudes (pp. 241–50)

The Mind of Christ Cards Related to This Unit

4B. Unit 7: Scripture Memory—Matthew 5:3	
6A-B. Scripture Memory—Matthew 5:3-10	
20. A-1: Poor in Spirit	24. B-1: Merciful
21. A-2: Mourn	25. B-2: Pure in Heart
22. A-3: Meek	26. B-3: Peacemakers
23. A-4: Hungry	27. B-4: Persecuted

Optional DVD Messages by T. W. Hunt

- Session 4, Part 1: His Manhood
- Session 4, Part 2: His Manhood

DAY 1

TWO HALVES OF A WHOLE, PART 1

Today's Bible Meditations

"Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32).

"[Jesus] was made in the likeness of men: and ... found in fashion as a man" (Phil. 2:7-8).

Name of Christ for Today

An Advocate with the Father (1 John 2:1)

Prayer to Begin the Lesson

Jesus, the Father has forgiven me because You are my Advocate. I do not deserve what You do for me, but I thank You for Your mercy. Because I have been given much, I too want to give. Amen.

1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verses and the name of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer to begin your study.

Hymn Part 4: Christ's Humanity

The fourth part of our hymn in Philippians 2:5-11 describes Christ's humanity: "[Jesus] was made in the likeness of men: and ... found in fashion as a man" (Phil. 2:7-8). Yes, Jesus was God, but Jesus was also fully human. One reason Jesus came to earth was to show us how to live. Jesus gave us a view of God's original intention for man. He displayed what perfect humanity was intended to be. Jesus described Himself as the Good Shepherd (see John 10:14) who leads us. He said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). In units 7-10 we will look at the humanity of Jesus and how He lived His life. We must learn the rules for humanity.

Blessings for Right Living

God's program for human conduct is contained in the Sermon on the Mount (see Matt. 5-7). That is Jesus' new law, the law for perfected humanity, the law of the kingdom of heaven. The sermon begins with a description of a kingdom person. Because Jesus began His great sermon on kingdom living with these eight blessings for right living, they assume real importance.

2. Several Lifelong Helps will assist you in following God's pattern for blessed living. Let us introduce you to them. Place a check beside each assignment as you complete it.

- First, tear out Scripture-Memory Cards 4A and 6A/6B. Notice that your memory verse for this unit is the first of the eight Beatitudes. The others are found on card 6. You are not expected to memorize them all this week. Begin hiding these rules and promised blessings in your mind and heart so that God can call attention to them anytime He wants.
- Next, tear out the Mind of Christ Cards related to the Beatitudes (cards 20-27). Notice that you have one card for each Beatitude. These individual cards will allow you to focus on them one at a time as God works to develop these qualities in your life.
- Finally, turn to pages 241-50. Notice that we have given you detailed information on each Beatitude. Place a bookmark at page 241 or fold down the corner of the page so that you can turn to it easily.

The eight Beatitudes describe a whole person blessed by God, living as God intended. The first four and the second four display symmetry between two halves. All parts are necessary, and the whole represents a complete human being in God's design for humanity.

3. Turn to page 241 and spend a few minutes studying the Lifelong Help that compares and contrasts the first four Beatitudes with the second four. Identify which one of the items in each pair goes with the first four (A) and which one goes with the second four (B). Write *A* beside one item in each pair and *B* beside the other.

<i>Basis for Happiness</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Your giving <input type="checkbox"/> Your need
<i>Keys to</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> God's heart <input type="checkbox"/> Christ's character
<i>Focus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Turn your mind toward others. <input type="checkbox"/> Turn your mind toward God.
<i>Command</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Love God. <input type="checkbox"/> Love others.
<i>Object</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> God gives according to your need to mold and shape you into the image of Christ. <input type="checkbox"/> God works through you to reveal Himself to a watching world.
<i>Greatness</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> The practice <input type="checkbox"/> The door
<i>Worship</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Higher levels of worship as you bring God glory by revealing Christ's character to others <input type="checkbox"/> Lower levels of worship as your praise to God comes from His meeting your needs

Basis for Happiness

The first four Beatitudes demonstrate need. The poor in spirit need God. The mourners need the Holy Spirit of God. That is one reason God breaks them—to create the need or to make them aware of the need. The meek need others. The hungry for righteousness need spiritual food.

The second four Beatitudes focus on giving. The merciful give God's grace to the world. The pure in heart give holiness to the world. The peacemakers give wholeness. The persecuted give themselves.

The two halves of the Beatitudes are in balance. God gives of Himself because of our desperate need. The greater the need, the more abundant His giving. After receiving Christ, we move into the area of self-giving (the second four). We often cycle through these two sides so that God can continue to grow and develop our character for greater service.

God gives of Himself because of our desperate need. The greater the need, the more abundant His giving.

4. As you look at your spiritual life, are you more on the needy side or the giving side?

The Keys

The first four Beatitudes—poor in spirit, mourning (brokenness), meekness, and hungry for righteousness—are the keys to God's heart. God loves the needy. Persons who meet these conditions are more receptive than persons who do not. Our need and consequent receiving in the first four Beatitudes prepare our character for something greater.

The second four Beatitudes—mercy, pure, peacemakers, and persecuted—are the keys to Christ's character. Because we needed God, He gave us Himself, and we are becoming like Christ. These second four qualities are Christlike. In them we practice perfect giving because we have so much of God.

5. Conclude today's study by thanking God for His work in you. Ask God to show you which qualities He would like to work on in your life. Read the eight Beatitudes on page 241. If God directs your attention toward one in particular, circle it.

DAY 2 TWO HALVES OF A WHOLE, PART 2

1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verses and the name of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer on the following page to begin your study.

2. As you read the following contrasts between the first (A) and second (B) groups of four Beatitudes, circle key words for each topic. Then write *A* or *B* beside the word to indicate the group of Beatitudes to which it belongs.

Focus

The first four Beatitudes turn the mind to God. In poverty of spirit, brokenness, meekness, and hunger we instinctively turn to God. The second four Beatitudes turn the mind to others. We do not direct our mercy toward God but toward our neighbor. We demonstrate peace, purity, and grace under persecution to those around us.

This order—the first four Beatitudes turning our mind to God and the second four turning our mind to others—follows the order of the two greatest commandments. The most important commandment is to love God above all, and the second is to love our neighbor (see Mark 12:29-31).

Today's Bible Meditation
"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" (Jas. 1:2-4).

Name of Christ for Today
Man of Sorrows (Isa. 53:3)

Greatness

The first four Beatitudes are the door to greatness. They produce qualities Jesus said make us greatest in the Kingdom (see Mark 9:35; 10:43; Luke 22:26-27). Spiritual greatness allows no room for pride. We become the little children Christ told us to be (see Matt. 18:1-4). We can see examples of these qualities in great yearners of the Bible such as Abel, Enoch, Noah, and Jeremiah.

The second four Beatitudes are the practice of greatness. This practice fills the world's need for grace and holiness. The Bible furnishes examples of the great practitioners: Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, Daniel, and Paul.

Object

God changes our inner life with the first four Beatitudes. Our need for God and for others grows profoundly. As we desperately reach to God in our needs, He trains us in our inner being. In the second four Beatitudes God uses our outer life to affect the world around us.

In the first four Beatitudes God uses circumstances to manifest our need of Him and His supply. When we find ourselves poor in spirit or broken, God offers us a deeper spiritual blessing than could be known in the smoother roads of life. Life may not always be comfortable. Many of us tend to blame God for our troubles, but God's intention is to use our hurt for our own maturation. God expresses Himself to others through the outworking of the second four Beatitudes in our lives. God allows us to use circumstances for His glory.

3. Can you think of a time when God used a difficult or hurtful time to help you mature spiritually? If so, write a brief note about that time.

4. Beginning with the next lesson, you will use the Lifelong Helps on the Beatitudes. Read the instructions in preparation for tomorrow. Underline any ideas you may want to refer to later. Based on this page of instructions, answer the following question.

God uses circumstances to develop the Beatitudes in your life.
For what is He training you?

5. Conclude your study in prayer. Ask God to open your mind to understand His activity in your life. Ask God to reveal when and how He has worked in the past and is working in the present to develop these qualities in you. If God reveals specific instances in the past, record them in your journal for later use.

Prayer to Begin**the Lesson**

Man of Sorrows—my precious Jesus—You experienced great suffering for great purposes. My human side would prefer an easy road. Please help me be willing to experience the trials of life as the Father develops these qualities in my life. I want to be "perfect and entire, wanting nothing." Amen.

God uses circumstances to manifest our need of Him and His supply. When we find ourselves poor in spirit or broken, God offers us a deeper spiritual blessing than could be known in the smoother roads of life.

DAY 3

POOR IN SPIRIT, MOURN, MEEK

Today's Bible Meditation

"God be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13).

Name of Christ for Today

All (Col. 3:11)

Prayer to Begin the Lesson

Jesus, I am a needy person. Without You I am lost and undone. I am nothing apart from You. You are described by Paul as All. Just as the Father was the "I Am That I Am" to Moses, You are everything I need. You are my Source. I praise You for being all-sufficient for my every need. Work in me today to meet my needs, even those I may not be aware of. Amen.

1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verse and the name of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer to begin your study.

We want to change our learning pattern. We want you to begin using the Lifelong Helps for the Beatitudes. We will give you assignments that will call for you to study and begin using the helps on pages 241–50. You may want to keep a bookmark here and at the back of your book so that you can flip back and forth as needed. You will also need The Mind of Christ Cards 20–27.

The Poor in Spirit

2. Read *Poor in Spirit* (p. 243 and The Mind of Christ Card 20) and answer the following questions.

What is the principle for this Beatitude? _____

To what is this quality of life a key? _____

How would you define *poor in spirit*? _____

Has God used a circumstance to develop this quality in you? Write a brief note to describe the situation.

What response in worship does this Beatitude prompt? _____

Mourn

3. Read *Mourn* (p. 244 and The Mind of Christ Card 21) and answer the following questions.

What is the principle for this Beatitude? _____

To what is this quality of life a key? _____

How would you define *mourn*? _____

Has God used a circumstance to develop this quality in you? Write a brief note to describe the situation.

What response in worship does this Beatitude prompt? _____

Meek

4. Read *Meek* (p. 245 and The Mind of Christ Card 22) and answer the following questions.

What is the principle for this Beatitude? _____

To what is this quality of life a key? _____

How would you define *meek*? _____

Has God used a circumstance to develop this quality in you? Write a brief note to describe the situation.

What response in worship does this Beatitude prompt? _____

5. Close today's lesson in prayer. Talk to the Lord about what He has done, is doing, or wants to do in your life about these three Beatitudes.

DAY 4

HUNGRY, MERCIFUL, PURE IN HEART

Today's Bible Meditation
 "God, thou art my God;
 early will I seek thee: my
 soul thirsteth for thee, my
 flesh longeth for thee in a
 dry and thirsty land, where
 no water is" (Ps. 63:1)

Name of Christ for Today
 Head of the Church
 (Eph. 5:23)

Prayer to Begin
 the Lesson

*Lord Jesus, I hunger and
 thirst for You. You are
 satisfying my needs, and
 I thank You. I sense my
 church needs a deeper
 hunger and thirst for You.
 You are working in me in
 that area. As the Head of the
 Church, would You create
 that same hunger and thirst
 in others? If You want to use
 my life in any way in
 the process, You have
 my permission. Continue
 filling me today! Amen.*

1. Begin today's lesson by reading the Bible verse and the name of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer to begin your study.

Continue using the Lifelong Helps for the Beatitudes and complete the following assignments.

Hungry for Righteousness

2. Read *Hungry* (p. 246 and The Mind of Christ Card 23) and answer the following questions.

What is the principle for this Beatitude? _____

To what is this quality of life a key? _____

How would you define *hunger and thirst for righteousness*? _____

Has God used a circumstance to develop this quality in you? Write a brief note to describe the situation.

What response in worship does this Beatitude prompt? _____

Merciful

3. Read *Merciful* (p. 247 and The Mind of Christ Card 24) and answer the following questions.

What is the principle for this Beatitude? _____

To what is this quality of life a key? _____

How would you define *merciful*? _____

Has God used a circumstance to develop this quality in you? Write a brief note to describe the situation.

What response in worship does this Beatitude prompt? _____

Pure in Heart

4. Read *Pure in Heart* (p. 248 and The Mind of Christ Card 25) and answer the following questions.

What is the principle for this Beatitude? _____

To what is this quality of life a key? _____

How would you define *pure in heart*? _____

Has God used a circumstance to develop this quality in you? Write a brief note to describe the situation.

What response in worship does this Beatitude prompt? _____

5. Close today's lesson in prayer. Talk to the Lord about what He has done, is doing, or wants to do in your life about these three Beatitudes. Thank God for what He is doing to develop these qualities in your life.

DAY 5
PEACEMAKERS, PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Today's Bible Meditation

"All things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation"
(2 Cor. 5:18).

Name of Christ for Today

Righteous Judge
(2 Tim. 4:8)

Prayer to Begin
the Lesson

Righteous Judge, my world often condemns those who serve You. I have heard of some who have been persecuted for claiming Your name. I ask You to judge such actions with Your righteous justice. Strife is all about me. Help me be the peacemaker You want me to be. Help me faithfully carry out the ministry of reconciliation You have given me. Amen.

1. Begin today's lesson by reading Bible verse and the name of Christ for today. Work on your memory verse. Then use the suggested prayer to begin your study.

Continue using the Lifelong Helps for the Beatitudes and complete the following assignments.

Peacemakers

2. Read *Peacemaker* (p. 249 and The Mind of Christ Card 26) and answer the following questions.

What is the principle for this Beatitude? _____

To what is this quality of life a key? _____

How would you define *peacemaker*? _____

Has God used a circumstance to develop this quality in you? Write a brief note to describe the situation.

What response in worship does this Beatitude prompt? _____

Persecuted for Righteousness

3. Read *Persecuted* (p. 250 and The Mind of Christ Card 27) and answer the following questions.

What is the principle for this Beatitude? _____

To what is this quality of life a key? _____

How would you define *persecuted for righteousness*? _____

Has God used a circumstance to develop this quality in you? Write a brief note to describe the situation.

What response in worship does this Beatitude prompt? _____

- 4. Review the eight Beatitudes, using The Mind of Christ Cards 20–27. Select one God is working on in your life. Spend some extra time today meditating on the Scriptures in the Lifelong Helps section for that Beatitude.
- 5. Conclude your study of this unit by praying for God to use any circumstance He chooses to develop the first four qualities in your life. Give Him permission to call on you to manifest the second four qualities whenever or wherever He needs to show the world what He is like. Pray for your group members as they seek to develop the mind of Christ in these areas.