



“The Beatitudes . . . are among the literary and religious treasures of the human race. Along with the Ten Commandments, the Twenty-third Psalm, the Lord’s Prayer, and a very few other passages from the Bible, they are acknowledged by almost everyone to be among the highest expressions of religious insight and moral inspiration. We can savor them, affirm them, meditate upon them, and engrave them on plaques to hang on our walls. But a major question remains: How are we to live in response to them?” – Dallas Willard

We live _____ to the Beatitudes.

We do not try to _____ the Beatitudes.

We cannot learn from and live in response to the Beatitudes unless we learn what Jesus was and was not doing. They are after all HIS Beatitudes, not ours to do with them as we will.

Two Dangers in trying to live up to the Beatitudes:

1. _____ and Self Abasement – “I do not live up to this standard; therefore I must be a bad Christian and a bad person.” This person judges themselves too harshly. Their standard is so high Mother Theresa has to work to achieve it.
2. _____ – “I am doing pretty well. God is fortunate to have me on his team.” This person judges themselves too lightly. In their own eyes they are doing well. Their personal standard is usually very low, but it is much higher for others.

The Sermon on the Mount was to answer two questions:

1. What really is the good life?
2. How do I participate in that good life?

What is the meaning of “blessed?” – The word translated blessed, *makarios* does NOT mean “happy.” Happiness is an inner _____. “Blessedness” is another’s point of view toward you.

What does being “poor in spirit” mean to me today?

1. **The best way to understand being poor in spirit is to study the**

_____.

Matthew 18:1-4

2. **Adults become as children, when they _____.**

Luke 18:9-17

3. **Entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven is given to those who do not believe _____.**

Romans 12:3

A person is not blessed *because* of their spiritual poverty. A person is blessed *in spite of* their spiritual poverty.

We are given the kingdom of heaven when we acknowledge our spiritual bankruptcy.