

The Beatitudes, Part 1

Matthew 5:1-10

Main Point:

True disciples have certain characteristics to them; therefore, examine yourself and flee to Christ.

1. In the Beatitudes, Jesus describes what a true disciple looks like.
2. A true disciple of Christ knows his place before God.
3. A true disciple of Christ yearns for more righteousness in life.
4. A true disciple of Christ lives out his Christ-likeness in a fallen world.
5. Examine yourself to see if you're a true disciple and flee to Christ as a result.

Cross-References and Quotations

John Legg "In the Beatitudes Jesus does not give instructions about how to live. The Beatitudes simply describe the character and characteristics of those who are blessed already, who belong to God's kingdom."

Sinclair Ferguson "Jesus is describing the person who sees his spiritual bondage, is conscious of the depth of his sins... And knows that in himself he is dispossessed of God."

Sinclair Ferguson "He [the Christian] does not excuse his sin, or belittle it, or ignore it. He does not weigh it in the balance with what he regards as his better qualities, or the fruitfulness of his service. Rather, he cries out with Paul, 'What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?'"

Romans 7:15, 19 ¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do ... ¹⁹ For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. (NKJV)

Sinclair Ferguson "Mercy is getting down on your hands and knees and doing what you can to restore dignity to someone whose life has been broken by sin (whether his own or that of someone else)."

Sinclair Ferguson "To be pure in heart is to be uncompromisingly dedicated to Christ."

John Legg "... The peacemaker longs to share in the reconciling of sinners to God, by witnessing to the gospel of peace. Whether an official ambassador [like a pastor] or an unofficial one, he shares in the desire and appeal of his father by imploring sinners around him to be reconciled to God ..."

Matthew 7:21-23 ²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 13:5a ⁵ Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith ... (NKJV)

2 Peter 1:10a ¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure ... (NKJV)

John Legg "This [the Beatitudes] is not a blueprint for us to put into practice, but a description of what is true already of the Christian. Nevertheless, it is necessary to realize that this is what we are, so that we may live consistently with it."