



"The Beatitudes: Implications to Life and Leadership" is a study of the eight attributes of a person whom Jesus calls "blessed." Found in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-12), each one is a challenge to our temporal paradigm. Each one advocates a distinctly different perspective on how to view ourselves and others. Each one will provoke a continual reassessment of the values on which we base our decisions in life and leadership.

This is perhaps the best known and least understood of Jesus' sermons. Like Moses who delivered the Ten Commandments from the mountain, Jesus gives a new covenant, one that is written on our hearts (Jeremiah 31:33). Each of these ethics or characteristics is perfectly personified in Jesus who taught them to his closest followers and curious observers alike. Clearly, all will benefit who truly understand and apply this message to their life, their relationships and their leadership. A parallel to Matthew's account can be found in Luke 6:20-26.

- 1 Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them saying:
- 3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.
- 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

1. What is the context of this timeless message? (Who, what, when, why, where)

2. Carefully observe the passage, looking for the following:

Key nouns

Repetitions

Verb Tense

Progressions

Modifiers

Groupings

3. Which of the beatitudes do you think is most needed today? Why?

4. Which of the beatitudes do you think is most likely to be misused today? Why?

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."
(John 15:11)