

## The Rt. Rev. John H. MacNaughton, 4 Nov 2007, Restatement of the Beatitudes in Matthew 5

### The Beatitudes, Matthew 5 (NIV)

### MacNaughton's Restatement

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:

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and he was sure that his disciples understood how central these teachings were. He sat down. And his disciples came to him, and he had a heart-to-heart talk with them and told them again what in other words he had continually been telling them all along. And this is what he said:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"The blessing of God will come to us when we are penitently conscious of our own spiritual poverty. For at that moment of honest penitence, we are already citizens of the Kingdom of God.

4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

The blessing of God will come to us when we willingly join in the sufferings of others, for out of that offering of sorrow to others, we will also feel the power of God's comfort for ourselves.

5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

The blessing of God will come to us in our meekness, when we choose to use our power to solve problems, and not to control people. When we can live with other people in that way, we will inherit a piece of eternity.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

The blessedness of God will come to us when we long for righteousness in our life as a starving person longs for food. As a thirsty person longs for water. For in that moment of longing, the peace of God will belong to us.

7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

The blessing of God will come to us when we try to understand other people, rather than to judge them. For when we are able to see with their eyes, others will do the same for us. And we will know the mercy that God has prepared for all of us in Jesus Christ.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

The blessing of God will come to us when our motives are right, even though our actions may be clumsy. For at that time of inner purity, we will be granted a vision of God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

The blessing of God will come to us when we seek peaceful and positive relationships between ourselves and others. And between others and others. For then we will be doing God-like work, as God's sons and daughters.

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

The blessing of God will come to us when we do what is right, in spite of anything those around us do or say. For at that moment we will know that we do not belong to anybody but God."

28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

When Jesus had finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who really understood how life was best to be lived. And when they heard these things, some of his disciples said, "These are counsels of perfection." And they went away and ignored them. But some disciples said, "Yes. I can do these things." And they went about living into these teachings as best they could. And they were the ones who were blessed. Amen.