



The Beatitudes and the matching verses from the Old Testament

(Matthew 5:1-12)

1 And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.

2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

3 **“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Isaiah 66:2: “But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.”

Psalms 50 (51):17: “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart – These, O God, You will not despise.”

But he who has voluntarily become poor from everything that seems vicious, and does not put away in his secret places even one of the devil's treasures, but burns in spirit and thereby collects for himself the poverty of evil deeds as a treasure, he, according to the indication of the Word, is in blessed poverty, the fruit of which is the Kingdom of Heaven.

- **Saint Gregory of Nyssa.**

Not those poor in spirit who have renounced the world and suffer only external poverty, but those who have abandoned all evil and constantly hunger and thirst for the remembrance of God.

- **Venerable Abba Isaiah.**

4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.

Isaiah 61:2: "To comfort all who mourn,"

Psalms 33 (34):18: "The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit."

If a faithful man, always heeding the commandments of God, doing all that they require, thinks about their height, that is, about that blameless life and purity (which they depict), he, examining his measure, will find himself extremely weak and powerless to reach this height of the commandments, will find that he is completely poor and unworthy to accept God or to thank Him and glorify Him (having found peace in himself), since he has not yet acquired any good in himself. But such a man, thinking about all this, without any doubt, with a feeling of soul will weep with that weeping which is truly the most blessed weeping, receiving both consolation and making the soul meek.

- **Venerable Simeon the New Theologian**

5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

Psalms 36 (37):11: "But the meek [the gentle] shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."

Meekness is the greatest of virtues and therefore is numbered among the beatitudes... for the meek "shall inherit the earth" (Matt. 5:5). This earth is the Heavenly Jerusalem, it is not the spoils of competitors, but is given as the inheritance to the long-suffering and meek

Those who have tamed their morals, freed themselves from every passion, in whose souls there is no rebellion - are called meek

- **Saint Basil the Great**

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

Psalms 41 (42):2-3: "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?"

Isaiah 55:1: "Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

The concept of truth is incompatible with all that is bad, and therefore it embraces all good; and good is everything that is considered virtue. Therefore, by the name of truth, for whom the Word blesses those who hunger and thirst for it, promising them the fulfillment of their desires, every virtue is designated here.

- **Saint Gregory of Nyssa (18, 412).**

7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

Proverbs 14:21: "He who despises his neighbor sins; but he who has mercy on the poor, happy is he."

Micah 6:8: "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"

He is merciful who in his thoughts does not distinguish one from another, but has mercy on all.

St. Isaac the Syrian

Mercy of the heart is revealed by the forgiveness of insults and offenses.

- **Venerable Abba Isaiah.**

8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

Psalms 23 (24):3-4: "Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully."

Psalms 73:1: "Truly God is good to Israel, to such as are pure in heart."

The trouble is not only that we do not have a pure heart, but that we do not strive for what can make it pure.

- **Saint John Chrysostom**

9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

Isaiah 52:7: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'"

There is nothing so characteristic of a Christian as to be a peacemaker; for this the Lord has promised us His greatest reward.

- **Saint Basil the Great**

**10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Whence and by whom are they "cast out"? The closest understanding of the word points to the field of martyrs implies the path of faith... For it is truly blessed to be persecuted for the Lord's sake. Why? Because exile by evil becomes the reason for remaining in good. Alienation from the evil one serves as a reason for drawing closer to good. And good and that which is higher than all good is the Lord Himself, to Whom the persecuted hastens. Therefore, he who makes use of the enemy's assistance for his own good is truly blessed. Since human life consists in the interregnum of good and evil, then just as he who has fallen away from a good and high hope falls into the abyss, so he who has separated from sin and freed himself from corruption approaches righteousness and incorruptibility. And although persecution is painful, the crown of martyrdom surpasses all bliss... And the Lord, seeing the weakness of nature, announces in advance this crowning of the feat, so that with hope for the Kingdom they endure temporary suffering.

- **St. Gregory of Nyssa**

11 Blessed are you when they revile you and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

While there is no direct Old Testament verses that matches these Beatitudes, the theme of enduring persecution for righteousness is reflected in the lives

of many Old Testament figures, such as the prophets and righteous individuals who faced opposition and suffering for their faithfulness to God (e.g., Daniel 6, Jeremiah 20:2).

Have you been insulted and reproached? Pray to God that He may quickly have mercy on the one who insulted you, he is your brother... but he attacks me very often, you say. So, you have a higher and greater reward, and in this case, it is especially fair for you to put off your anger, since he has already received a mortal blow - the devil has struck him.

- St. John Chrysostom

Like the water of life, drink the insult of every person who wants to give you this medicine to drink... then deep purity will shine in your soul and the Light of God will not become scarce in your heart.

- St. John Climacus

12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven