

Beatitudes: A Modern Perspective

BEATITUDES (Mt 5:3-10)	MEANING	WHAT THE WORLD SAYS
How happy are the poor in Spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.		
Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.		
Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.		
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.		
Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.		
Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.		
Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.		
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.		

Try to explain what each Beatitude means. (Note that here 'happy' does not mean 'feeling fine'; it means being at one with God, with all the joy this will bring in heaven.)

In the third column, try to think of an attitude of the world which is in direct opposition to the Beatitude. In order to do this you will need to think of popular slogans/sayings - these often express a worldly attitude. Some are listed below.

'look after number one'
'get them before they get you'
'better be safe than sorry'
'what's someone else's problems got to do with me?'
'only the strong survive'
'money makes the world go round'
'revenge is sweet'
...

Example

Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.	Those who spread peace in the world take after God just as children of God should; God wants peace, and so should God's children.	'get them before they get you'
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