

## Reflections on the Beatitudes

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. 7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. 10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Matthew 5:3-10 ESV*

*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16 ESV*

"You don't have to feel angry anymore. We're on the road to happiness, a place where happiness was set forth as never before." Disease or any life trauma steals our freedom, wears us down, humiliates us and teaches us submission like nothing else. It controls our lives and limits our future. Can happiness be found in the middle of trials? Jesus' words can help us in ways we might never expect.

Are you facing a life trauma that is controlling your life? Seek comfort in the words of Jesus.

The Beatitudes help us align ourselves with the purposes of God. They help us find blessedness out of our brokenness. When we come to a low place in our lives we learn that we are not the center of the universe. The world will go on without us. Ken Curtis tells us that being weak and broken doesn't have to mean that we are finished. It can mean that we are on the verge of a brand new beginning.

Do you ever feel weak and broken? Are you willing to let God show you a brand new beginning?

Why am I here? What is my life all about? When Ken went to a lawyer to settle his affairs he felt uninterested because his world had already gone away. He said that so much had changed, beyond recognition about the way he felt or couldn't feel about his life. When we no longer have control over our lives we are ready as never before to receive the kingdom of God. Poverty of spirit can let us see God.

Do you feel weak and wounded of spirit? God will meet you where you are.

Jesus tells us, "Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28. He wants to meet us at our deepest need. God wants us to hunger after righteousness; to long for His will and His ways. What makes our lives worthy is a sense of mission. Each of us have something special to do. Our greatest legacy is giving what we are uniquely made to give.

What is your mission in life? Has it changed? Ask God to help you see your mission.

Sometimes we ask, why am I so battered and defective? We become preoccupied in our own struggles. We need to learn to reach out in love and caring to others. We need to reach out where our mercy is needed. Jesus wept for His people even though He was reaching the end of His own life. God doesn't want us to be afraid. The most common command in the Bible is the phrase, "Fear not."

Do you have fear in your life? Ask God to take away your fear and change it into peace.

Unjust suffering is an issue that those with illnesses often face. How can God allow it? Job didn't suffer because he was bad. He was a righteous man. God worked through the suffering and restored Job. There was a story behind the story. Our immediate circumstances are only a small part of the picture. God's presence will carry us through. Even in the most difficult situations blessedness and peace can be found.

In the middle of goodness or difficulty He will be with us. He will keep us in His loving care always.

*Dear Lord, please bless us in our brokenness. Help us find peace and joy in the midst of the turmoil and struggles of life. Show us the tasks that You have prepared for us. Guide us each step of the way so that we will fulfill our purpose, to our good and Your glory, forever and ever. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.*