

Handout #1, Lesson 10: **SUMMARY OF THE BEATITUDES**

<p>BLESSING #1 <i>BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT</i></p>	<p>We are “poor” in spirit because we acknowledge that we are not self-sufficient and that we need God in our lives. We come to Him in childlike faith, knowing that we cannot make it on our own without Him.</p>
<p>PROMISE #1 <i>FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN</i></p>	<p>When we acknowledge the sovereignty of God over our lives we discover that He does not save us because of what we have done, but He saves us because of what Christ has done for us. If we persevere in faith we are promised the gift of eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven.</p>
<p>BLESSING #2 <i>BLESSED ARE THEY WHO MOURN</i></p>	<p>As we yield to spiritual childhood, admitting poverty of spirit and kneeling in His presence, the more clearly we see God. The more clearly we see God the more we become aware of our imperfections. We become humbled in His presence and we feel the burden of our sins. The result is that we mourn our sins. Repentance and genuine sorrow for our sins purifies us. To mourn sin is a natural outflow of surrender to God through “poverty of spirit.”</p>
<p>PROMISE #2 <i>FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED</i></p>	<p>Not only does the Holy Spirit comfort us in our sorrow and repentance but through living the Sacraments of our faith He gives us the strength to resist sin and the strength to stand against sin in our community and in the world. We bear our suffering with a spirit of atonement, reconciliation and love, and the result is comfort and strength.</p>
<p>BLESSING #3 <i>BLESSED ARE THE MEEK</i></p>	<p>Christian “meekness” is not weakness. It is based on humility which is expressed in the New Testament as the supernatural quality that is the outgrowth of a renewed nature. This renewal can only come when we surrender to God and seek His divine will in our lives. It is this third step: “blessed are the meek,” which renews us and places us as a useful tool in the hands of the Master of the universe.</p>
<p>PROMISE #3 <i>FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE LAND</i></p>	<p>No longer does Satan have the power to dominate us because we have been reborn through Christian baptism into the family of God. We belong to the God who created and dominates the earth. As His children and Christ’s heirs we inherit the earth and the universal kingdom He has established on earth to lead the nations into the family of God—the Catholic (universal) Church.</p>
<p>BLESSING #4 [the turning point] <i>BLESSED ARE THEY WHO HUNGER</i></p>	<p>Christ gives himself to the soul that truly hungers for Him. When the world no longer has any hold on</p>

<i>AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS</i>	us, all we want is Him.
PROMISE #4 <i>FOR THEY WILL BE SATISFIED</i>	Filled with the Holy Spirit we are nourished by Christ who gives all of Himself to us in the Eucharist: Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity!
BLESSING # 5 <i>BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL</i>	As we yield our will to God and are filled with the divine life of His Son, we grow closer to Him and we become more like Him. We forgive others, and we offer His love to others because He loves and forgives us.
PROMISE #5 <i>FOR THEY WILL BE SHOWN MERCY</i>	The more we forgive others the more we receive forgiveness through the sacrifice of the Son.
BEATITUDE #6 <i>BLESSED ARE THE CLEAN OF HEART</i>	With Christ living in us, His righteousness cleanses us and our hearts become pure; we reflect the image of the Living Christ.
PROMISE #6 <i>FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD</i>	We will see the face of God in each person with whom we share Christ's love.
BEATITUDE # 7 <i>BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS</i>	As we live our lives with the Prince of Peace within us, He gives us the desire to share His message of peace and salvation with others.
PROMISE #7 <i>FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD</i>	John 1:12: <i>But to all who receive him, who believe in His name, He gave the power to become children of God.</i>
The result of living the Beatitudes	
<i>BLESSED ARE THEY WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR THE SAKE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS</i>	When we live God's plan for our lives, we may endure injustice and we may be persecuted for His sake and for the plan of God working in the lives of others. Our response is to answer His call to take up our crosses daily and to follow Him.
PROMISE: <i>FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN</i> [this is a repeat of promise #1]	God saw that his children were trapped in a world of sin. He freed us through His Son's sacrificial death on the cross so we could be reborn through Christian baptism as sons and daughters of God, and we become the heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven = eternal life lived within the life of the Most Holy Trinity.
<i>BLESSED ARE YOU WHEN THEY INSULT YOU AND PERSECUTE YOU AND UTTER EVERY KIND OF EVIL AGAINST YOU [FALSELY] BECAUSE OF ME</i>	Our commitment to accepting persecution in the name of Jesus has to be a personal commitment.
PROMISE: <i>REJOICE AND BE GLAD FOR YOUR REWARD WILL BE GREAT IN HEAVEN. THUS THEY PERSECUTED THE PROPHETS WHO WERE BEFORE YOU</i>	When we accept our commitment to everything He has taught us, we can rejoice in the confidence of His promise of salvation if we persevere in faith to the end.
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Handout 2: The Beatitudes Lesson 10

If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, the world would love its own; but because you do not belong to the world, and I have chosen you out of the world, the world hates you. John 15:18-19

Discuss the various points on how Mother Church and righteous Christians (the children of God) stand opposed to Satan’s influence over the world in the “Salt and Light” metaphors of Matthew 5:13-16. Give examples of how Christians can stand against a sinful world and at the same time fulfill our commission to spread the Gospel of salvation to the ends of the earth. Jesus said: *‘You are salt for the earth. But if salt loses its taste, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled under people’s feet. You are light for the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in people’s sight, so that, seeing your good works, they may give praise to your Father in heaven.’*

The World	The Christian/the Church
1. The world is in a state of spiritual decay and has no “flavor” for holiness.	1. Christian influence for righteousness preserves and encourages what is holy and good, saving the world through the “salt” of faith and righteousness. The Church provides a moral standard based on a “taste” for the righteous of Christ in the Eucharist.
2. The world promotes unhealthy behavior both physically and spiritually. Sin is harmful to living creatures.	2. In sharing the Gospel message of salvation with the world, the Church and her children promote temporal health for the body and eternal health for the soul.
3. The world is a corrupting influence; the material and selfish values of the world are in complete opposition to the values of the Christian.	3. The Christian example is one of purification of body, mind and spirit in giving the self-sacrificial love of Jesus to each other and to the world in general.
4. The world is on the slippery slope to eternal judgment.	4. The Christian example provides stability through the God-given institutions of marriage, family, and the Church. It is the Church as our mother who teaches us the way to salvation and eternal life. It is our obligation as Christians living the Beatitudes to share this teaching with the world.
5. The world is in darkness	5. It is the Christian’s duty to let the light that is Christ and the Gospel message of salvation shine through the Christian soul to illuminate the earth as a beacon of truth and hope.

Handout 3: The Beatitudes Lesson 10

Questions for group discussion:

Question: What advice did Jesus give concerning persecution in Luke 12:2-12? What verse in your opinion expresses the key teaching in this discourse?

Question: What are some of the differences or similarities that you have noticed between the Old Covenant Law as presented in the Ten Commandments and the New Covenant Law as presented in the Beatitudes?

Answer:

- The Ten Commandments presents the moral law while the Beatitudes present the spiritual law.
- The Ten Commandments are negative commands—*You shall not*; but the Beatitudes are positive statements—*Blessed are the ...*; however, a negative is implied if the blessing is not embraced.
- In both sets of the old and new Law, the first three statements address our relationship to God, but in the Ten Commandments the remaining commands address our relationship to others while the remaining four Beatitudes move us spiritually into the life of Christ.

Question: Jesus' command to the faithful Christian is to take up our crosses and follow Him just as he invited St. Peter to accept his cross (literally and figuratively) in John chapter 21:18-19. What does this command mean to you personally? Are you prepared to die for Christ figuratively and literally?

Question: How are you living the present reality of the Beatitudes? Discuss them point by point. Have you suffered persecution and injustice in your walk with Christ? What is your advice to others who are suffering under this burden?

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