

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Sermon on the mount: the Beatitudes

5¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain. He sat down and his disciples gathered around him. ²Then he spoke and began to teach them:

³—Fortunate are those who are poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Fortunate are those who mourn, they shall be comforted.

⁵Fortunate are the gentle, they shall possess the land.

⁶Fortunate are those who hunger and thirst for justice,
for they shall be satisfied.

⁷Fortunate are the merciful, for they shall find mercy.

⁸Fortunate are those with a pure heart,
for they shall see God.

⁹Fortunate are those who work for peace,
they shall be called children of God.

¹⁰Fortunate are those who are persecuted
for the cause of justice,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹—Fortunate are you, when people insult you and persecute you and speak all kinds of evil against you because you are my followers. ¹²Be glad and joyful, for a great reward is kept for you in God. This is how this people persecuted the prophets who lived before you.

³⁸—You have heard that it was said: *An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.* ³⁹But I tell you this: do not oppose evil with evil; if someone slaps you on your right cheek, turn and offer the other. ⁴⁰If someone sues you in court for your shirt, give your coat as well. ⁴¹If someone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. ⁴²Give when asked and do not turn your back on anyone who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³—You have heard that it was said: *Love your neighbor and do not do good to your enemy.* ⁴⁴But this I tell you: Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Father in Heaven. For he makes his sun rise on both the wicked and the good, and he gives rain to both the just and the unjust.

⁴⁶If you love those who love you, what is special about that? Do not even tax collectors do as much? ⁴⁷And if you are friendly only to your friends, what is so exceptional about that? Do not even the pagans do as much? ⁴⁸For your part you shall be righteous and perfect in the way your heavenly Father is righteous and perfect.

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