

February 13–19
Matthew 5: Luke 6
“Blessed Are Ye”



Overview

Luke 6:17

17 And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples...

Matt 5:1-2

1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

JST Matt 5:1-4

1 And Jesus, seeing the multitudes, went up into a mountain; and when he was set down, his disciples came unto him;

2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

3 Blessed are they who shall believe on me; and again, more blessed are they who shall believe on your words, when ye shall testify that ye have seen me and that I am.

4 Yea, blessed are they who shall believe on your words, and come down into the depth of humility, and be baptized in my name; for they shall be visited with fire and the Holy Ghost, and shall receive a remission of their sins.

The Beatitudes

Matt 5:2-12

The Beatitudes

Verse 3 - Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

JST Matt 5:5

Yea, blessed are the poor in spirit who come unto me...

What does it mean to be "poor in spirit"?

O. Leslie Stone

What is meant by “poor in spirit”? Is it not humility, which renders us teachable and eager to learn? They who feel themselves spiritually poor approach God, asking him to supply their needs. They who have faith in him, learn his laws and try diligently to obey him. They thus become eligible for the great blessings he has promised, including salvation, exaltation, and eternal life, which are the greatest of all the gifts of God.” (CR, Oct. 1974)

The Beatitudes

Verse 4 - Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted.

How does the Savior provide comfort to those who mourn?

Harold B. Lee

“To mourn, as the Master’s lesson here would teach, one must show that 'godly sorrow that worketh repentance' and wins for the penitent a forgiveness of sins and forbids a return to the deeds of which he mourns.” (Decisions for Successful Living, pg. 58)

David E. Sorensen

“Remember the Lord has promised that He will help us as we face adversity. He has particular compassion for those who suffer. It was He who said, ‘Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.’

“As part of the Atonement, our Savior suffered all things. He knows physical and emotional pain; He knows the sorrow of loss and betrayal. But He showed us that ultimately love, patience, humility, and obedience are the path to true peace and happiness.... Jesus offers us solace despite our suffering. His life was not free of conflict or pain, but it was free of fear and full of meaning.” (CR, April 2005)

Russell M. Nelson

"My heart goes out to each individual who bears the burden of mourning. I share my feelings of empathy and sympathy. The separation imposed by the departure of a loved one evokes pangs of sorrow and shock among those left behind. The hurt is real. Only its intensity varies. Even though we understand the doctrine-even though we dearly love God and his eternal plan-mourning remains....

"Where can we turn for peace? We can come unto the Lord Jesus Christ.... His is the peace provided by our knowledge of the resurrection. His gift of life after death applies to all mankind.... Peace comes when we go directly to our best friend-the Prince of Peace." (The Gateway We Call Death, pg. 22-24)

The Beatitudes

Verse 5 - Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.

What does it mean to be meek?

David A. Bednar

“Meekness is a defining attribute of the Redeemer and is distinguished by righteous responsiveness, willing submissiveness, and strong self-restraint....

“The Christlike quality of meekness often is misunderstood in our contemporary world. Meekness is strong, not weak; active, not passive; courageous, not timid; restrained, not excessive; modest, not self-aggrandizing; and gracious, not brash. A meek person is not easily provoked, pretentious, or overbearing and readily acknowledges the accomplishments of others.”

(CR, April 2018)

The Beatitudes

Verse 6- Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled

JST Matt 5:8

....for they shall be filled with the Holy Ghost.

In what way will those who “hunger and thirst after righteousness” be filled?

Harold B. Lee

“Did you ever hunger for food or thirst for water when just a crust of stale bread or a sip of tepid water to ease the pangs that distressed you would seem to be the most prized of all possessions? If you have so hungered then you may begin to understand how the Master meant we should hunger and thirst after righteousness. It’s that hungering and thirsting that...induces worship on the Lord’s Day [and] prompts fervent prayer.” (Decisions for Successful Living, pg. 60)

Joseph F. Smith

"The Holy Spirit is to enlighten the minds of the people with regard to the things of God, to convince them at the time of their conversion of their having done the will of the Father, and to be in them an abiding testimony as a companion through life, acting as the sure and safe guide into all truth and filling them day by day with joy and gladness, with a disposition to do good to all men, to suffer wrong rather than to do wrong, to be kind and merciful, long-suffering and charitable. All who possess this inestimable gift, this pearl of great price, have a continual thirst after righteousness." (JD, 18:271)

The Beatitudes

Verse 7- Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.

Gordon B. Hinckley

“How godlike a quality is mercy. It cannot be legislated. It must come from the heart. It must be stirred up from within. It is part of the endowment each of us receives as a son or daughter of God and partaker of a divine birthright. I plead for an effort among all of us to give greater expression and wider latitude to this instinct which lies within us. I am convinced that there comes a time, possibly many times, within our lives when we might cry out for mercy on the part of others. How can we expect it unless we have been merciful ourselves?...

“Let us be more merciful. Let us get the arrogance out of our lives, the conceit, the egotism. Let us be more compassionate, gentler, filled with forbearance and patience and a greater measure of respect one for another. In so doing, our very example will cause others to be more merciful, and we shall have greater claim upon the mercy of God who in His love will be generous toward us.” (CR, April 1990)

The Beatitudes

Verse 8- Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.

What does it mean to be pure in heart?

Why do you think that being pure in heart will allow us to enduring God's presence?

Helaman 3:35

Nevertheless they did fast and pray oft, and did wax stronger and stronger in their humility, and firmer and firmer in the faith of Christ, unto the filling their souls with joy and consolation, yea, even to the purifying and the sanctification of their hearts, which sanctification cometh because of their yielding their hearts unto God.

Marion G. Romney

“I can think of no blessings to be more fervently desired than those promised to the pure and the virtuous.

Jesus spoke of specific rewards for different virtues but reserved the greatest, so it seems to me, for the pure in heart, ‘for they,’ said he, ‘shall see God.’ And not only shall they see the Lord, but they shall feel at home in his presence.

“Here is his promise—the Savior’s promise: ‘Let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God’ (D&C 121:45).” (CR, April 1979)

The Beatitudes

Verse 9- Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.

What can we do to become peacemakers and good examples of followers of Christ?

Russell M. Nelson

“Now, as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, what does the Lord expect of us? As a Church, we must ‘renounce war and proclaim peace’ (D&C 98:16). As individuals, we should ‘follow after the things which make for peace’ (Rom 14:19). We should be personal peacemakers. We should live peacefully—as couples, families, and neighbors. We should live by the Golden Rule.... We should bring divine love and revealed doctrines of restored religion to our neighbors and friends. We should serve them according to our abilities and opportunities. We should keep our principles on a high level and stand for the right. We should continue to gather scattered Israel from the four corners of the earth and offer the ordinances and covenants that seal families together forever. These blessings we are to bring to people of all nations.” (CR, Oct. 2002)

The Beatitudes

Verse 10-12

JST Matt 5:12-14

12 Blessed are all they that are persecuted for my name's sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

13 And blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

14 For ye shall have great joy, and be exceeding glad; for great shall be your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

What do we learn from this clarification in the JST?

Bruce R. McConkie

“Persecution for his name's sake is the heritage of the faithful... it evidences that they have forsaken the world and come unto Christ, so as to be future inheritors of the fulness of his Father's kingdom. ‘And whoso layeth down his life in my cause, for my name's sake, shall find it again, even life eternal’ (D&C 98:13).” (DNTC, 1:216)

Gospel Principles

Matt 5:13-16

JST Matt 5:

15 Verily, verily, I say unto you, I give unto you to be the salt of the earth...

16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, I give unto you to be the light of the world...

What does it mean to be the salt of the earth?

Why is it important to the Lord that His disciples not lose their “savor”?

Why is it important to the Lord that His disciples let their light shine?

James E. Talmage

“Salt is the great preservative; as such it has had practical use since very ancient times.... To be of use salt must be pure; to be of any saving virtue as salt, it must be salt indeed, and not the product of chemical alteration or of earthy admixture, whereby its saltiness or ‘savor’ would be lost; and, as worthless stuff, it would be fit only to be thrown away. Against such change of faith, against such admixture with the sophistries, so-called philosophies, and heresies of the times, the disciples were especially warned.” (Jesus the Christ, pg. 232)

Carlos E. Asay

"In 1833 Joseph Smith received a revelation which included these instructions: 'When men are called into mine everlasting gospel, and covenant with an everlasting covenant, they are accounted as the salt of the earth and the savor of men' (D&C 101:39)....

"When the Lord used the expression 'savor of men,' he was speaking of those who represent him. He was referring to those who have repented, who have been washed clean in the waters of baptism, and who have covenanted to take upon them his name and his cause....

"There should be salt between us and all men. We should extend honor, friendship, and hospitality to all of our brothers and sisters. To the inactives we extend the hand of fellowship; to the nonmembers we extend the divine invitation 'come and see'; with the fathers of yesteryear we establish links which weld fathers to children and children to fathers. In all of this, we advance the purposes of the Master and assist in the reconciliation of men to the God who gave them life. And, in the process, we not only preserve our savor but we save ourselves.." (CR, April 1980)

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

"Christ's light brings hope, happiness, and healing of any spiritual wound or ailment. Those who experience this refining influence become instruments in the hands of the Light of the World to give light to others. They will feel what King Lamoni felt: 'This light had infused such joy into his soul, the cloud of darkness having been dispelled, and... the light of everlasting life was lit up in his soul' (Alma 19:6).

"My dear brethren, my dear friends, it is our quest to seek the Lord until His light of everlasting life burns brightly within us and our testimony becomes confident and strong even in the midst of darkness." (CR, Oct. 2017)

Gospel Principles

Matt 5:17-20

In what ways did Jesus fulfill the Law of Moses?

Tracy Y. Browning

"Ultimately a great portion of the Israelites rejected His message, even going so far as to accuse the Savior— He who gave the law and declared that He was 'the law, and the light'—of breaking it. Yet Jesus in His Sermon on the Mount, speaking on the law of Moses, declared, 'Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.' Then the Savior, through His eternal Atonement, ended the codes, regulations, and ceremonial practices observed by the people of Israel at that time. His final sacrifice led the shift from sacrificial burnt offerings to our rendering of 'a broken heart and a contrite spirit' (2 Nephi 2:7) from the ordinance of sacrifice to the ordinance of sacrament." (CR, Oct. 2022)

Gospel Principles

Matt 5:21-26

What should we learn from Jesus' statement about agreeing with our adversary?

Brigham Young

“In our daily pursuits in life, of whatever nature and kind, Latter-day Saints, and especially those who hold important positions in the Kingdom of God, should maintain a uniform and even temper, both when at home and when abroad. They should not suffer reverses and unpleasant circumstances to sour their natures and render them fretful and unsocial at home, speaking words full of bitterness and biting acrimony to their wives and children, creating gloom and sorrow in their habitations, making themselves feared rather than loved by their families. Anger should never be permitted to rise in our bosoms, and words suggested by angry feelings should never be permitted to pass our lips. (JD 11:136)

Marion D. Hanks

"It is reported that President Brigham Young once said that he who takes offense when no offense was intended is a fool, and he who takes offense when offense was intended is usually a fool. It was then explained that there are two courses of action to follow when one is bitten by a rattlesnake. One may, in anger, fear, or vengefulness, pursue the creature and kill it. Or he may make full haste to get the venom out of his system. If we pursue the latter course we will likely survive, but if we attempt to follow the former, we may not be around long enough to finish it." (CR, Oct. 1973)

Gospel Principles

Matt 5:27-30

What do you think that Jesus is admonishing us to do when He references plucking out eyes and cutting of hands?

JST Matt 5:31,34

31 Behold, I give unto you a commandment, that ye suffer none of these things to enter into your heart; for it is better that ye should deny yourselves of these things, wherein ye will take up your cross, than that ye should be cast into hell.

34 And now this I speak, a parable concerning your sins; wherefore, cast them from you, that ye may not be hewn down and cast the fire

Gospel Principles

Matt 5:33-37

What does Jesus mean when He tells us to "let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay"?

Bruce R. McConkie

Beginning in the meridian of time, Jesus revealed a higher standard relative to truthfulness in conversation. It was simply that Yea meant Yea, and Nay meant Nay, and that no oath was required to establish the verity of any promise or thing. Every man's every word was to be as true and accurate as if it had been spoken with an oath. (DNTC, 1:226)

Gospel Principles

Matt 5:38-42

JST luke 6:29-30

29) And unto him who smiteth thee on the cheek, offer also the other; or, in other words, it is better to offer the other, than to revile again.

And him who taketh away thy cloak, forbid not to take thy coat also.

30) For it is better that thou suffer thine enemy to take these things, than to contend with him. Verily I say unto you, Your heavenly Father who seeth in secret, shall bring that wicked one into judgment.

How does the JST version effect the emphasis of the message?

Bruce R. McConkie

Contention leads to bitterness and smallness of soul; persons who contend with each other shrivel up spiritually and are in danger of losing their salvation. So important is it to avoid this evil that Jesus expects his saints to suffer oppression and wrong rather than lose their inner peace and serenity through contention. 'He that hath the spirit of Contention is not of me,' he told the Nephites, 'but is of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger, one with another' (3 Ne 11:29). (DNTC, 1:228)

Gospel Principles

Matt 5:43-48

Joseph Fielding Smith

"[Perfection] will not come all at once, but line upon line, and precept upon precept, example upon example, and even then not as long as we live in this mortal life, for we will have to go even beyond the grave before we reach that perfection and shall be like God.

"But here we lay the foundation. Here is where we are taught these simple truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ, in this probationary state, to prepare us for that perfection. It is our duty to be better today than we were yesterday, and better tomorrow than we are today... If we are keeping the commandments of the Lord, we are on that road to perfection". (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:18-19)

Next Week:

February 20–26

Matthew 6–7

“He Taught Them as One Having Authority”

