

A Portrait of Christian Character (Matthew 5:1-12)

1Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2**And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

3"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.

11"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12**Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5:1-12 ESV)

1. The Posture of Faith (v3)

9He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:

10"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. **11**The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. **12**I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' **13**But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' **14**I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.' (Luke 18:9-14 ESV)

2. The Posture of Repentance (v4)

5And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" **6**Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. **7**And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." (Isaiah 6:5-7 ESV)

3. The Posture of Gentleness (v5)

3Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth. (Numbers 12:3 ESV)

13And Moses cried to the Lord, "O God, please heal her—please." (Numbers 12:13 ESV)

4. The Posture of Spiritual Hunger and Thirst (v6)

...Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. **2**Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. (Isaiah 55:1-2 ESV)

5. Posture of Compassion & Forgiveness (v7)

19But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? **20**As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. **21**So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. (Genesis 50:19-21 ESV)

6. A Posture of Integrity (v8)

3Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? **4**He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. **5**He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. **6**Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. ... (Psalms 24:3-6 ESV)

8Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (James 4:8 ESV)

7. The Posture of Eager Reconciliation (v9)

18All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; **19**that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. **20**Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. **21**For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:18-21 ESV)

2with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, zealous to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:2-3 ESV)

8. The Posture of Gladness In Certain Affliction (vs10-12)

24"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. **25**It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. (Matthew 10:24-25 ESV)

18"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. (John 15:18 ESV)

40and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. **41**Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name... (Acts 5:40-41 ESV)

