

Matthew 5 Study Guide

The eight Beatitudes (verses 3 – 10) are pithy descriptions of the attitudes that will characterize a citizen of the Kingdom of God and each begins with the word “blessed.” The idea of “blessed” is difficult to translate into modern English. In the Scriptures is to be enriched in some way. In ***Messiah: The Story of Jesus According to Matthew***, the author translated “blessed” as “real joy.” That is how we might respond to being enriched spiritually.

But the attitudes are equally difficult to translate. For example, what does “poor in spirit” (verse 3) mean? *The New Living Translation* translates it as “those who are poor and realize their need for [God]. *The J.B. Phillips New Testament* translates it as “the humble minded.” *The New Life Version* translates poor in spirit as “those who know there is nothing good in themselves.” The paraphrase in the textbook translated it as “those who know they are spiritually needy.”

ANALYZE. Which of the translations seems to come closest to what you think “poor in spirit” means?

Explain why you chose that particular translation. _____

RESEARCH AND COMPREHENSION. Choose three more of the attitudes in verses 4-10 and use three different translations to find alternate translations. (You can find a variety of translations on www.Biblegateway.com) Write those translations below.

1. Verse # _____

Translation #1 _____

Translation #2 _____

Translation #3 _____

Which of the translations best helps you understand the idea? # _____

2. Verse # _____

Translation #1 _____

Translation #2 _____

Translation #3 _____

Which of the translations best helps you understand the idea? # _____

3. Verse # _____

Translation #1 _____

Translation #2 _____

Translation #3 _____

Which of the translations best helps you understand the idea? # _____

Which of the eight attitudes do you think is the most difficult attitude for people to have?

Why do you think so? _____

Which is the easiest? _____

Why do you think so? _____

OBSERVE. The rest of the Sermon on the Mount has to do with behaviors. What is the behavior that should NOT characterize a citizen in the Kingdom of God in verses 21-26?

What is the behavior that should characterize a citizen of the Kingdom of God in verses 43-48?

ANALYZE. Which of the behaviors of a citizen of the Kingdom of God in verse 21-48 seems to be the most uncommon today?

Which of the behaviors seems most important to you? _____

Why? _____