

Mathew 5:1-12 Joyous are those...

Introduction. The beatitudes outline the attitudes of the true disciple, one who shows they are under God's rule. Living according to these 'Kingdom' attitudes is to **live now** in the light of a **certain future**. 'Blessed' = 'life of profound joy' (M. Green) made possible by God as we trust in Him. '**Joyous are...**'

1. 'the poor in spirit' – (Is. 66:2) OT background = those who are experiencing distress yet have confidence in God. They are profoundly aware of their need for God (Ps. 34:6). Their joy is based on God's unimagined and overwhelming grace.

2. those who mourn' – (Is. 61:2) They are those who are suffering, especially for their loyalty to God. They are profoundly aware of the world's suffering and their own sin (Ps. 119:136). They will experience joy because **God will comfort** them.

3. 'the meek/humble' ...'will inherit'. (Ps. 37:11). Jesus' ministry (Mt. 11:29; 12:15-21). Inheritance is for those who are **humble and give glory to God**.

4. 'those who hunger and thirst for righteousness' – (Ps. 42:1-2; Jn.4:34). Those who hunger and thirst for goodness, earnestly **seek to know and obey God's will**. Those who **stive for justice** for all. This is another sign of God's rule.

5. 'the merciful' . (Ps. 28:6; 28:6). Those who have tasted God's mercy are to be merciful to others. (Mt. 9:27-31). Mercy and forgiveness linked-6:14-15 (1 Cor.13).

6. 'the pure in heart' – (Ps. 24:3-4. Deut. 6:5 – loving God with an undivided loyalty – 'heart' = whole being. Jesus identifies the 'heart' (the core of our being) as the cause of human evil (Mt. 15:19)

7. 'the peace makers' – (Ps. 34:14). (Eph. 2:13-18; Col. 1:19- 23). In his death on our behalf Jesus Christ has won peace for us with God. God requires the recipients of His peace, His children, to pursue peace.

8. 'those who are persecuted because of righteousness'. A life that seeks to do God's will can expect persecution, but God's joy can be experienced now and in the certain future with Him.

Vv. 11-12. Focus shifts to the present disciples. They are to expect and rejoice at insults and persecution because they are his disciples. Their 'reward' is 'not an earned payment' but a 'freely given recompense' (R. France).

Reflection/Response. How do we live joyfully now certain of our future with God?